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# THE TIMES

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## Tories deny smear campaign against Ashdown

By Philip Webster  
and Melinda Wittstock

THE Conservative party last night issued a blanket denial of claims that a cabinet minister smeared Paddy Ashdown during the general election campaign.

After a day-long enquiry into allegations by Kelvin MacKenzie, editor of *The Sun*, that he had been approached by a cabinet minister offering names and addresses of women said to have had an association with the Liberal Democrat leader, Conservative central office delivered a rebuttal in a short statement.

A senior spokesman said that the

two cabinet ministers in charge of the daily course of the election campaign who would have routinely spoken to the press were Chris Patten, the former chairman, and Lord Wakeham, now leader of the House of Lords. The statement added: "Both of them deny categorically knowing anything about or giving to *The Sun* or any other newspaper the names, addresses or telephone numbers of women alleged to have had affairs with Mr Ashdown. Indeed every member of the cabinet denies the allegation and would deplore such action."

It is understood that senior party officials contacted members of the cabinet during the day to ask

whether they knew anything of Mr MacKenzie's allegations.

As enquiries were continuing yesterday, Kelvin MacKenzie, *The Sun's* editor, disclosed that he had also been approached during the election by a Labour MP seeking to discredit Neil Kinnock, the former Labour leader. "We investigated [the claims] but they turned out not to be true and then Neil Kinnock accuses us of smearing him," he said.

His disclosures, before the central office statement, came as John Smith, the new Labour leader, raised the stakes in the debate about privacy for senior politicians, sparked by the allegations about

David Mellor and an actress, by calling on the prime minister to say which of his ministers approached the tabloid if Mr MacKenzie was not prepared to name his source.

"This is a question of probity and principle in public life and I believe the prime minister should find out precisely who said what and take action to ensure that there is no recurrence," Mr Smith said.

Earlier, Tory central office would neither confirm nor deny Mr MacKenzie's allegation that a cabinet minister had contacted him with the names, telephone numbers and addresses of three women alleged, erroneously, to have had affairs with Mr Ashdown. A Tory official said

the allegation had come to the party "like a bolt from the blue".

Central office was now trying to get to the bottom of the story, but an enquiry would take some time. Ministers were being asked whether they knew anything about the alleged contact. Mr MacKenzie's allegations, amid growing calls from politicians for the introduction of a privacy bill to prevent press intrusions into private lives, sent a tremor through the Tory party, with MPs speculating about whether Mr MacKenzie would be bounced into naming names. The cabinet minister concerned would have no choice but to resign.

Mr Smith, who has kept out of

the furor over the Mellor allegations, said: "It is usually the newspapers that demand people should be named. In these circumstances, if Mr MacKenzie is not prepared to reveal the name of this minister then it is incumbent upon Mr Major to establish which of his ministers was involved and to make a public statement."

Mr MacKenzie said: "Here, on the one hand, we have Number 10 demanding privacy and, on the other hand, members of the

Continued on page 16, col 1  
Actress distraught, page 2  
Smith's chance, page 6  
Anthony Howard, page 12

TODAY IN  
THE TIMES  
NANNY GETS  
THEIR GOAT



Libertarian critics of white paper proposals for a healthier nation are scolded by the health secretary  
*Life & Times*  
Page 5

DARCEY GETS  
HER MAN



The Royal Ballet's prima ballerina has finally found a male talent to match hers  
*Life & Times*  
Page 3

DIANNE GETS  
TO THE TOP



The rise of *World in Action's* female executive producer  
*Life & Times*  
Page 5

## Halford drops sex bias case for £142,000

By Ronald Faux

THE decision to retire Alison Halford as Assistant Chief Constable of Merseyside on an enhanced pension and with a lump-sum of £142,000, dropping all disciplinary charges against her, was criticised last night as a "back-stage stitch-up" and a victory for lawyers.

Merseyside police authority voted yesterday, by the narrow margin of ten votes to eight, with three members abstaining, in favour of a settlement that will end the sex discrimination case brought by Miss Halford at an industrial tribunal against the chief constable of Merseyside, the Home Secretary, the North-West Inspector of Constabulary and the Northamp-

tonshire police authority. Miss Halford, 52, once Britain's highest-ranking policewoman, is understood to be suffering from stress and an arthritic knee, warranting early retirement on health grounds. She will retire on August 31, receiving a pension of £35,836 a year which will be enhanced by an undisclosed sum because of her ill health, and a lump sum of £142,000.

In her 26 days of evidence to the tribunal, Miss Halford made many critical claims against Merseyside police, including what she believed to be the "desperate abuse" of the system within the force. This, she said, allowed officers accused of disciplinary offences and who then became sick, to be retired on health grounds.

Barry Sheerman, MP for Huddersfield and Labour's home affairs spokesman, accused those involved in the case of arranging a "back-stage stitch-up" in which justice had not been seen to be done. "I feel disappointment and frustration that we have not reached a final conclusion. This has cost the taxpayer a great deal of money without the satisfaction of a clear-cut decision. What we wanted was a proper evaluation both of the alleged discrimination against Alison Halford and her alleged failure to perform her duties."

David Jackson, leader of the Labour group on Wirral Council, said: "My main annoyance is that I believe there is a case to answer on the disciplinary procedure, nothing to do with the sex discrimination case."

Miss Halford had faced

disciplinary charges after being accused of swimming in her underwear with another police officer in a private pool at the home of a Wirral businessman when she was the most senior police officer on duty in Merseyside. As a result of her retirement these charges will be dropped automatically.

Labour councillor Cathy Wilson, one of three police authority members who originally voted against taking disciplinary action against Miss Halford, also criticised the decision. "The whole issue of equal opportunities is above price in my opinion, but I think what you've seen today is a lawyer's victory."

The cost of the hearing, put at more than £1 million, is believed to have disturbed the Home Secretary. The 40-day hearing in Manchester is likely to end today when the tribunal meets. Only Miss Halford's side of the case has been heard.

Her personal solicitor said last night that the affair had been an appalling ordeal for his client. He criticised the parties involved for their "deliberate attempt" to wear her down.

"Alison Halford is a human being and whatever has been done or not done, it has been a scandal that these matters should have been protracted by the Chief Constable of Liverpool, the Home Office and everybody else for 18 months, making a mockery of the industrial tribunal procedure," he said.

Class left, page 3  
Diary, page 12  
Need for reform, page 12  
Leading article, page 13

## Lamont holds the line on public spending

By Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

THE Chancellor last night underlined his determination to control public spending and declared he would have "no truck" with those who argued that the country could cope with slightly higher inflation.

On the eve of today's special cabinet session on public expenditure, Norman Lamont made plain that the government's objective remained to reduce spending as a proportion of gross domestic product.

He and his Treasury chief secretary, Michael Portillo, face bids from Whitehall de-

partments for extra spending totalling some £14 billion.

They are expected to include a request from Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, for at least £1.6 billion to meet the benefit costs of higher than expected unemployment; up to £800 million from Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, to fund the community-care programme; and up to £1 billion from Michael Howard, the environment secretary, to bring in the council tax. There was

Continued on page 16, col 3

Leading article, page 13

## Four hours of tests at eleven

By John O'Leary

NEW national curriculum tests for 11-year-olds will be brought in for up to 80 per cent of primary schools next spring, the education secretary, said yesterday.

The children are to sit four hours of written tests in English, mathematics and science, similar to the tests taken last month by 14 year olds. Mr Patten emphasised that the tests for eleven year olds are not a return to the eleven plus, as they are not designed for selection.

The tests are part of the government's strategy to raise standards, to inform teachers, pupils and parents how well children are doing by highlighting strengths and weaknesses, showing where help is needed.

Tests next spring, page 16

## UN leader attacks Carrington accord

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations secretary-general has clashed with the European Community about its peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina, questioning the feasibility of the agreement reached between the warring factions in London last week.

In an angry letter to members of the United Nations Security Council, Boutros Boutros Ghali, the increasingly autocratic UN head, complained that he was not consulted about the peace agreement and has "serious reservations" about the role it envisages for the United Nations. He said Lord Carrington, the EC's chief negotiator, ignored his warning that the ceasefire agreement was "not realistic".

Lord Carrington responded yesterday by saying that the peace plan, if it could be made to work, "would be

likely to stop the war". In an interview with the BBC, he said: "As far as I was concerned, it was not a question of consultation. It was a request that he [Boutros Ghali] should do this by the three warring parties."

While diplomats and officials at the United Nations tried to play down the dispute, the security council subcommittee overseeing UN sanctions against the rump Yugoslav state ruled that Serbian and Montenegrin athletes could compete as individuals in the Barcelona Olympics, but that teams from Yugoslavia would be banned. The decision means that runners and swimmers will be able to take part under the Olympic flag, but Yugoslavia's soccer, basketball and

Continued on page 16, col 3

Croatia retracts, page 10



Golden handshake: Alison Halford retires on August 31

## Cairo visit ushers in era of harmony

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN CAIRO

A RENEWED era of harmony between Egypt and Israel, reminiscent of the heady days after the 1979 peace treaty, was ushered in yesterday by a two-hour summit between President Mubarak and Yitzhak Rabin, the new Israeli prime minister.

Arab and Israeli sources said that the success of the meeting was expected to play a significant role in the bid by James Baker, the US Secretary of State, to revive the Middle East peace process. Mr Baker is due in Egypt later this week and, according to Western officials, will follow up on Egypt's role as a middle man helping to bridge the gap between Israel and more radical Arab states.

A beaming Mr Mubarak announced without hesitation that he had accepted an invitation to visit Israel, having rejected any such overture during the rule of the Likud government. "Mr Rabin invited me, but frankly speaking, I need no invitation," the Egyptian leader said. "My response to Mr Rabin is positive."

Afterwards, Mr Rabin laid a wreath on the tomb of President Sadat. The wreath said in Hebrew: "With respect for the man of peace."

In an attempt to allay Arab doubts, Mr Rabin said all sides recognised that the Madrid peace process was based on UN resolutions that cover the exchange of land for peace but both sides had different interpretations.

Baker's task, page 9

## BA joins air giant

British Airways is buying a 44 per cent stake in America's fourth largest airline, USAir Group, for \$750 million (£391 million), creating the biggest airline alliance in the Western world.

The partnership will have annual revenues of \$9 billion. Carrying almost 79 million passengers a year, the alliance will outrank American Airlines and Delta, the world's two biggest carriers. Pages 17, 21

## Libel deal

Damages in a libel action between a High Court judge and *Today* newspaper will be decided not by a jury but by another judge, a breakthrough in litigation that could set a precedent. Page 2

## Father's plea

The father of Rachel Nickell, who was stabbed to death after a sex attack on Wimbledon Common, has appealed for clues to trap the "monster" who killed her. Andrew Nickell, 52, has returned from a holiday in Canada. Page 3

## Council link

Strathclyde Regional Council, Britain's biggest local authority, is among several councils approached for training programmes by a London group linked to New Age consultants. Page 4

Births, marriages, deaths	14
Crossword	16
Letters	12
Obituaries	13
Sport	23-26
Weather	16
Arts	2, 3
European Arts	4
Modern Times	5, 6
Homes	7
Concise Crossword	11
Law/Tax Exam Results	12
TV & radio	12

## Briton claims Olympic waters made him ill

By Barry Pickthall  
YACHTING CORRESPONDENT

BARRIE Edgington, the British windsurfer who is favourite to win a gold medal at the Olympic Games, claimed yesterday that the sea off Barcelona, where the Olympic yachting regatta begins next Monday, is a health hazard.

Edgington, 25, has returned to his home at Fishbourne, west Sussex, with a stomach upset. "I don't normally get ill, but the waters are particularly bad. They are smelly and there is a lot of pollution," he said.

"We have seen dead rats, plastic bags, condoms, even fridges floating on our course. Several other sailors have also been suffering from ear infections."

Edgington returns to Barcelona today having lost nearly half a stone since picking up the bug last week. He must now rebuild his strength before the ten-race series begins.

The Times on Friday includes a special 20-page supplement on the Olympic Games, with features on the events and a day-by-day guide for television viewers.

At the pre-Olympic regatta last year, four competitors had to retire after contracting pollution-linked infections. This, coupled with many complaints about raw sewage drifting across the course, led *The Times* to commission the Robens Institute at the University of Surrey to test 25 samples taken from the Olympic waters. One sample had ten times the number of streptococci laid down as a European Community guideline. Another sample showed a 1,000-fold increase in the numbers of faecal organisms, well above EC mandatory levels. Other samples, however, did not reveal any threat to health.

Publication of *The Times* report last

September led the Spanish authorities to promise an all-out effort to clean up the sea before the Games. Pere Miró, the assistant director of Barcelona's Olympic organising committee, told members of the International Yacht Racing Union that plans were in hand to pipe the city's effluent away from the area and bring in sea-sweepers to clear up the rubbish.

Mike Evans, the director general of the yachting union, said yesterday: "The Spanish authorities are taking the problems very seriously. The problem of human sewage has been resolved. Even the cruise ships moored in the main harbour are not allowed to discharge their effluent, and they have four tugs scooping up the rubbish. It is only when it rains very heavily, as it did up to a week ago, that the problems seem to reappear."

South Africa retracts, page 26



1X



## 2 HOME NEWS

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JULY 22 1992

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Patten challenged in university pay row

The rift between universities and the education department over lecturers' pay widened yesterday as vice-chancellors said they would seek legal advice, after the government refused to take the dispute to arbitration (Matthew d'Ancona writes).

Ministers last week rejected the pay settlement agreed between vice-chancellors and university staff of 6 per cent, plus 1 per cent to be distributed locally, on the grounds that the deal was too far out of line with inflation. The government has insisted on a smaller pay rise for lecturers, as well as serious moves towards performance-related pay, before it will release £24 million held back from the universities' grant.

At a meeting with the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals yesterday, John Patten, the education secretary, said that lecturers were not being victimised, since other pay settlements were now around 4 per cent. The government, he said, was willing to consider a rise of just under 5 per cent, at least 0.75 per cent of which would be allocated to performance-related pay. The refusal to go to arbitration reflected "the over-riding public interest in moderating pay settlements and the growth of public spending". David Harrison, committee chairman, said that the settlement which had been agreed with lecturers was necessary to deliver a high-quality higher education service.

## Floods sweep South

Homes were flooded and transport disrupted yesterday after thunderstorms and heavy rain swept southern England (Peter Victor writes). Rail services were delayed by signalling problems and some roads in Kent and Suffolk were closed by flooding. Sudbury, Suffolk, was cut off for a time by floodwater. Commuters faced delays of up to 90 minutes due to widespread signal failure, with the Colchester to Liverpool Street line worst affected. The London Fire Brigade answered 971 calls, nearly twice the average, in the 24 hours after the start of the rain.

Forecast, page 16

## Briton dies in Kenya

A tourist from Bristol died after the hot-air balloon she was travelling in exploded in Kenya. Beatrice Ham, a nurse, was crossing the Masai Mara game reserve with her husband, John, as they celebrated their silver wedding anniversary. He and 11 other people were injured in the accident on Saturday. The balloon was about 20ft in the air when strong winds forced it into a tree and threw the people out. The basket fell on Mrs Ham and then burst into flames. She later died in hospital from burns. Yesterday Mr Ham flew from Nairobi to his home in Westbury-on-Trym after being treated for burns and shock.

## Rents into mortgages

Council tenants will be encouraged to buy their homes by converting their weekly rent into a mortgage payment under a scheme outlined by Sir George Young, the housing minister, yesterday. Giving the first details of the scheme, which was promised in the Conservative election manifesto, Sir George said it was aimed at tenants who were financially secure but could not afford the full price of their homes under the right-to-buy legislation. Weekly rent payments would be converted into mortgage repayments with the balance of the value of the property being retained by the council on a shared equity basis.

## Drug seizures rise

The value of drugs seized at London's three airports rose by 22.5 per cent last year to £57.2 million from £46.7 million in 1990. Customs and Excise said about 10 per cent of the drugs smuggled into Britain had passed through London's airports. Most drugs that arrive by air are smuggled in freight, including one find of 40 kilos of cocaine seized at Gatwick. David Chesters, who jointly runs the customs operation at Gatwick, linked the increase in seizures to drug cartels targeting Britain. "We are particularly worried by the rise in the amount of cocaine smuggled to Britain. Its street value is 50 per cent higher here than in New York," he said.

## Interest Rate Change

## FIRST OPTION BONDS

From noon on 21 July 1992 the first-year fixed rate of interest on offer for new purchases of FIRST Option Bonds changed from 10.34% gross (7.75% net) to 9.67% gross (7.25% net).

The bonus earned by bonds of £20,000 or more held to the first anniversary remains unchanged at 0.4% gross (0.3% net).

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Issued by the Department for National Savings on behalf of the Treasury



Reflected glory: a portrait of Baroness Thatcher by the photographer Helmut Newton is mirrored in a glass door, right, as it is hung in the National Portrait Gallery in London yesterday. It is among portraits at the 20th Century Acquisitions exhibition opening tomorrow

## Actress breaks her silence to attack 'disgusting lies'

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE unemployed actress alleged to have had a relationship with David Mellor, the national heritage secretary, attacked her "former friends" yesterday for selling "disgusting lies" and "obscene untruths" about her to the tabloids.

Antonia de Sancha, 31, said her life had been totally ruined by reports alleging that she had set up the cabinet minister with a classic "kiss and tell". She denied that she had spoken to any reporters or received any payment of any kind.

Her statement, her first since *The People* made the relationship public on Sunday, came as Mr Mellor attacked *The Daily Mirror* for a front-page story claiming that his wife Judith, 43, was in danger of going blind with retinitis pigmentosa.

Mr Mellor, now in the invidious position of having to supervise the government's enquiry into the press and intrusions of privacy, refused to confirm or deny the *Mirror* story. But he told reporters outside his department's offices: "I can't think what public interest is being served by things being said about my wife's eyesight which causes her great distress. I'm sorry *The Daily Mirror* has chosen to do that. I don't think they have won themselves any friends."

Miss de Sancha said that she felt like a "caged animal" and begged the press to leave her alone so she could rebuild her life. In a statement issued by her agent, Aquila Productions, she said: "I no longer feel able to maintain my silence in the light of allegations made about me in the press. People who I once considered my friends, and the depths of the gutter press have, with their disgusting lies, succeeded in hounding me to the extent that I feel like a caged animal."

"I have not at any stage spoken to any members of the press and have never received any payment of any kind," she said. "I find it amazing that the press are prepared to publish unsubstantiated stories from people who claim to

have known me at some point in my life. The people involved in the selling and publication of these obscene untruths and the invasion of my privacy have totally ruined my life and left me shattered. All I desire is to be left alone to rebuild my life and pursue my career."

Miss de Sancha has not yet complained to the Press Complaints Commission, but the self-regulatory body will this morning examine how *The People* obtained allegedly verbatim conversations between Mr Mellor and Miss de Sancha. The commission will also examine yesterday's report in the *Mirror*, although Mr Mellor has not com-

plained. It is still unclear how *The People* obtained the conversations, but Bill Hagerly, the editor, insists the information was obtained legally.

Richard Stott, editor of the *Mirror*, said the report was "clearly in the public interest" and made it clear that emotional stress could worsen the effects of the eye disease. "Mr Mellor put his wife under enormous emotional stress and as a result of that a lot of women in this country will be making up their minds about Mr Mellor. It's clearly something that is in the public interest — about a politician who uses his family as part of his election address," he said. Mr Mellor should have wor-

ried about the effect on his family before he "finished off" with Miss de Sancha, Mr Stott said.

Peter Meineck, director of Aquila Productions, said Miss de Sancha was distraught when he met her on Monday night with a legal adviser. "She is coping but she has lost a lot of weight. She can't sleep or eat and she's very, very distraught. She is not a public figure. She's done nothing wrong. She's done nothing illegal. Most of the people who are bringing the allegations against her she's never heard of," he said.

Tory denies, page 1

## Indignant Fleet Street rises to the challenge

BY JOE JOSEPH

IT WAS tricky to see how indignant Fleet Street could get about David Mellor's relationship with an actress when his embarrassment coincided with news yesterday that even Jesus Christ may have been a divorced father-of-three. *The Sun* rose to the challenge.

In a front page editorial it claimed that during April's election campaign, a senior Tory cabinet minister telephoned *The Sun* with names and addresses of three women who had allegedly conducted affairs with Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader. The allegations proved to be unfounded.

*The Sun* said: "It was no coincidence that the smear on Mr Ashdown was planted at a time when the Tories' election campaign was at a low ebb. When it looked as if Mr Ashdown held the key to the outcome. Politics is a dirty business. Sometimes, by necessity, journalism is, too."

*The Sun* added: "The Mellor affair demonstrates why MPs of all parties join the clamour for a privacy bill. They don't want the press's

torch of freedom shone into the dark crannies of their own lives. They only want publicity when it suits them. What a two-faced bunch many of them are. It certainly was rich of Mellor to warn the Press it was 'drinking in the Last Chance saloon'. While all the time he was playing piano in the bordello next door."

*The Independent* seemed to share *The Sun's* thrust. If not its bedside manner, it felt that recent invasions of privacy had rekindled the threat of new muzzles on the press, but that: "The government should not allow recent cases to stampee it into a commitment to privacy legislation..."

Countries that have privacy laws usually have weak libel laws. Ours are draconian. Moreover, countries that have legislated to protect privacy do not necessarily boast a more elevated press."

*The Guardian's* editorial made the telling point that: "The plain fact for him [Mellor], or for any public politician seeking to legislate or to invoke moral standards, is that fidelity is always the safest course: code or no code,

law or no law. So he has, painfully, made a considerable ass of himself. That should not mean his removal from office."

At *The Daily Telegraph*, editorial writers agreed that Mr Mellor must stay. "What is at stake here is more a matter of private folly and sadness than public scandal," they too, felt that to punish the press with new legislation would backfire: "It would merely be employed to shield a wide range of dubious characters from press scrutiny, as were the libel laws by Robert Maxwell."

Having experienced the Max factor, the *Daily Mirror* was in unflinching mood. "If David Mellor had any integrity, or any respect for the opinions of his electors, he would have resigned by now. If the prime minister had any guts, or any judgment, he'd have sacked him."

"As for Mr Mellor's plea to be left in peace for the sake of the children... he should have thought of that when he was cavorting on a grubby mattress with Antonia de Sancha."

## Judge to decide libel sum

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A BREAKTHROUGH in libel litigation will take place today when the damages in an action between a High Court judge and a newspaper are decided not by a jury but by another judge.

The action, between Mr Justice Popplewell, and *Today*, could set a precedent which ends the lottery of high-level jury awards at a time when government proposals might lead to a rise in libel actions.

"Instead of a court hearing, both parties have agreed to go before an arbitrator," in this case Lord Williams, QC, chairman of the Bar who sits as a deputy judge. He will decide the damages in a private hearing in chambers. His award is binding and there is no appeal.

The newspaper has already apologised to the judge and offered to make amendments over publication of a story that the judge was suing a Reading news agency for alleged libel in suggesting that he left asleep in a murder trial.

A committee under Lord Justice Neill on defamation, which reported last summer proposed an arbitration procedure where a defendant admits the libel, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, is believed to support the idea.

The idea of going to arbitration in the case came from Tom Cronin, legal manager of News International, which owns *Today*. With the Lord Chancellor expected soon to issue a draft order allowing lawyers to act on a "no win, no fee" basis in defamation as well as certain other cases, the newspaper industry will watch today's arbitration with particular interest.

Daniel Taylor, of *Today's* legal department, said: "The great advantage of an arbitration is the speed — we don't have to wait months for a court hearing — and the price. It is far cheaper."

## Working from home 'could save billions'

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY 9,000 road accident injuries could be prevented and £2 billion of fuel costs saved every year if companies told employees to work from home, a report says today.

Strategic Workstyles 2000, an Oxford forecasting unit, says that industry could make huge financial savings and spare their staff the wear and tear of commuting by allowing them to work from home. Noel Hodson, the report's author, says that the effects of allowing 15 per cent of Britain's 22 million workforce to work in their own homes, using telephones, facsimile machines and computers, would be enormous.

His report, backed by BT, says that there would be 8,700 fewer road injuries and 8,000 fewer damaged cars a year and more than 500,000 cars would be "taken off London's roads."

Britain has been slow to adopt home working even though the benefits of workers using computer terminals at home has been proved through productivity increases of up to 60 per cent in some companies. BT has estimated that 2.25 million people will work from home by 1995 but latest forecasts are that the figure may reach only 1.3 million.

Strategic Workstyles says that companies could save hundreds of thousands of pounds a year by cutting office overheads and letting staff work from home, using the latest technology.

The report says that 85 per cent of British travel is by car, 40 per cent of which is devoted to commuter traffic. Taking 15 per cent of workers off the roads would "revolutionise" travel, easing congestion and reducing the amount of fuel burnt by 2.7 million gallons each working day.

London would feel the biggest benefits with 526,000 fewer drivers on the roads. *Newsnight* 34,000 commuters would not need to enter central London daily. Commuters would benefit from seeing their families more, saving up to four hours a day on travelling to work.

The report estimates that a manager earning £25,000 a year who has to commute 90 minutes each way to the office each day could save £6,335 a year in travel costs and lost working time.

Companies would have a fresher workforce which did not need to be transported into a central, expensive location daily. A study for a big financial institution planning to allow 20 people to "telecommute" calculated that the company would save more than £430,000 a year.

The study examines the reasons why telecommuting has not achieved the advantages of time saved and cost-cutting. It says that managers are often nervous about leaving staff unattended and out of sight of the office.

For the "teleworker", working from home might bring unforeseen hazards, such as a partner who does not want the house invaded by machinery and office paperwork. A number of car commuters thoroughly enjoy the total isolation and privacy available to them in their cars," the report says.

## DEGREE RESULTS

During the next two months, *The Times* will publish in full the results of all classes from all universities and former polytechnics, making it the most complete service of its kind.

## Newspaper wedding catches jungle telegraph on the hop

BY ANDREW PIERCE



Black: a portrait of Napoleon in his office

THE Canadian newspaper magnate Conrad Black and Barbara Amiel, an award-winning newspaper columnist, were married at Chelsea register office yesterday morning. In a profession that prides itself on leaks, the whole of Fleet Street was caught napping by the wedding of two of its most colourful figures.

The wedding was attended by a handful of the couple's closest friends. Even staff on *The Daily Telegraph*, owned by Mr Black, did not know until after the couple were declared man and wife. Miriam Guss, literary editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, and Brian Stewart, a Canadian broadcaster and writer, an old friend of Mr Black, were the witnesses.

After the ceremony the couple had lunch at Claridge's and held a dinner last night

for 20 friends at Annabel's, the nightclub in Berkeley Square. The guests included the Duchess of York, Baroness Thatcher and Sir Denis, David Frost, Lord Weidenfeld, Lord Rothschild, Sir Geoffrey Owen, former editor of the *Financial Times*, and Max Hastings, the editor of *The Daily Telegraph*.

David Radler, president of Mr Black's Canadian holding company, Hollinger, flew into London from Vancouver for the wedding ceremony, which was also attended by Mr Hastings. Mr Black wore a dark suit. Miss Amiel wore green.

The marriage unites two of the best known figures in the media. Mr Black, aged 47, is rising fast in the world media tycoon league. The £600 million acquisition last year of John Fairfax, publisher of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, gave

the Canadian Hollinger group control of more than 90 newspapers on four continents, including the *Daily and Sunday Telegraph*. A passionate student of history, he is an expert on 19th-century prime ministers and 20th-century battles. A portrait of Napoleon, his hero, hangs in his office at the *Telegraph*. His 12-acre estate in Toronto has a library extension to house his 15,000 books.

He caused a stir in London when he bought the house next door to Robin's Grove, Highgate, for his London library.

Miss Amiel, aged 51, became Canada's first woman newspaper editor when she took over the tabloid *Toronto Sun*. She edited the paper for a year. Born in London, she was educated at North London Collegiate, but moved to Can-

ada in her early teens. Since moving back to Britain in 1984 Miss Amiel has become a highly visible columnist and was voted the 1989 Woman of Distinction. She is a regular panellist on BBC television's *Any Questions*.

Last year Mr Black, who has two sons and a daughter from his marriage in 1978, divorced amicably from his wife, Shirley. Miss Amiel's third marriage, to David Graham, a television tycoon, ended in 1988.

Mr Black is a convert to Roman Catholicism — "practising rather than devout" he once said. Miss Amiel, a Jew, attends synagogue.

Mr Hastings said: "It was a very private occasion for just a few friends. They are going tomorrow on an extended working honeymoon in Canada and the United States."



Amiel: first woman editor in Canada



## Halford's sex bias claim withdrawn

## Tribunal left clues to blocked promotion

PRECISELY why Alison Halford, the aggrieved assistant chief constable of Merseyside, was overlooked for promotion nine times did not emerge in 39 days of evidence to the industrial tribunal in Manchester, but there were clues that the least astute constable could detect.

Her charge of sexual discrimination against James Sharples, chief constable of Merseyside, the home secretary, HM inspector of constabulary and Northamptonshire police authority was withdrawn after a settlement which left only her side of the story on the tribunal's record.

Using defence as the best form of attack, Eldred Tabachnik, QC, her counsel, pre-empted much of the evidence the police authority was likely to produce about Miss Halford and her record

The Alison Halford tribunal was able to hear only one side of the story, reports Ronald Faux

since 1983 when she became Britain's highest ranking policewoman. His trawl through some brutally unflattering reports on her by her superiors left some observers wondering which side Mr Tabachnik was representing.

He disclosed to the tribunal that these reports presented Miss Halford as an obsessive regular under the influence of drink, a user of foul and abusive language, resentful of reasonable criticism and anti-social, presuming seniority above her colleagues, and police and always ready to

think the worst of them, lacking objectivity and flexibility, dogmatic and emotionally unstable. She was accused of shedding tears, he said, when it was considered unprofessional to do so. The literary was savage and, as things turned out, arguably unnecessary.

Mr Sharples, Sir Kenneth Oxford, the former chief constable of Merseyside, and a line of other witnesses will not now give evidence. Miss Halford unleashed a barrage of criticism against her senior officers, in particular at Sir Kenneth who, for much of the hearing, sat some 100 yards away from his former assistant. He had, she declared, been exceptionally abusive, aggressive, dogmatic, demanding and rude to all her colleagues.

The tribunal heard her confess that she had described Sir Kenneth as "a bastard" at a dinner party. It was, she said, a "liquidacious" occasion at which she was "merry" on the drinks swingometer. She told a colleague to his face that he was a prat who needed a punch in the throat and resigned from the Wirral ladies golf club after telling another member to "sod off".

Miss Halford maintained, however, that it was not such flashes of temperament that halted her rapid rise, but male hostility within the force. She believed that as the first woman to become an assistant chief constable she had a responsibility for championing her own cause.

An early sign that Miss Halford was about to rock the boat came in "Until the 12th of Never", an article she wrote for *Police Review*, which gave a pessimistic appraisal of women's chances of reaching the top. There was strong but covert resentment of women, she said.

In 1962, as a new recruit into the Metropolitan police, she was highly regarded and selected for "fast track" promotion. As a chief superintendent she applied to become an assistant chief constable on Merseyside. She told the tribunal she won the post because the chief constable wanted to go one better than his opposite number in Manchester who had just become the first chief constable with a car phone.

Then began the "years of misery on Merseyside" where she saw herself as the victim of a conspiracy, which she said, extended to home secretary level.

Police officers who escape possible disciplinary action by retiring sick from the force while the subject of an enquiry damage public confidence in the police and attract bad publicity, a report by the Commons select committee on home affairs said in March (Adam Fretwell writes).

The MPs said that the Home Office should set up a panel to review any applications for medical retirement by officers facing disciplinary charges and any cases where officers claimed they were unfit to attend a hearing.

Halford payment, page 1  
Diary, page 12  
Need for reform, page 12  
Leading article, page 13



Shepherd: stand against positive discrimination

## Glass ceiling robs women of success

By LIN JENKINS

ALMOST forgotten in the controversy over the Alison Halford case is her complaint that she reached what has been termed the glass ceiling: that transparent barrier which prevents women reaching the top simply because they are women.

Any suggestion that it is a fixed point is easily dismissed by those who cite the superstars who land the plum posts as Director of Public Prosecutions or head of MI5. But the statistics speak all too clearly as do the women deprived of opportunity, and although Britain's first woman prime minister steadfastly refused to champion the cause of her own sex, John Major has repeatedly made public his commitment to change.

There are women in the police force who believe that the ceiling in their profession is well below that of the rank of assistant chief constable which Miss Halford reached. She is the only woman who made applications from 1987 onwards to become deputy chief constable of a provisional force, making two a year until 1990. The following year there was none.

At the rank of assistant chief constable three women applied in 1987 and none was successful. No women applied until 1991 when of the eight applicants three were awarded the position.

That figure may suggest change. However, sexism is enshrined not only in the culture and tradition of the force but also in legislation. It took a change in the law to introduce at the beginning of this month in six pioneering forces a job sharing scheme to help women with children to continue working.

There is a belief that macho professions are most resistant to change. The armed forces have no women in the top ranks defined as OF10-7. In OF6 — commander in the Royal Navy, brigadier in the army and air commodore in the RAF, there are four

women out of 385. In OF5 (RN captain, full colonel in the army and group captain in the RAF) 25 out of 1,432 are women.

Lady Howe, whose Hansard Society Commission report on *Women at the Top*, published in January 1990, provided the foundation for Opportunity 2000, the initiative aimed at helping women crash through the glass barrier, takes the view that the problem is based on culture and demography.

With the labour pool of 16 to 24-year-olds estimated to drop by 1.1 million by the end of the century, companies will have no option but to look to employing women and competing in offering attractive packages of career breaks and child care facilities.

While the government remains opposed to positive discrimination it has told the NHS that every shortlist for a senior manager's post must contain the name of a woman, and the number of general managers must double to 100 within three years.

Gillian Shepherd, who as employment secretary has particular responsibility for women, is against positive discrimination as it lowers the status of those it is designed to help. The Equal Opportunities Commission would say that those needing help could not have a lower status.

## Keyhole claim in libel case

A HIGH Court libel jury is to hear hotly-contested evidence that South African journalist Jani Allan was seen through a keyhole making love with neo-Nazi leader Eugene Terre Blanche.

Charles Gray, QC, representing Miss Allan in her damages claim against Channel 4, told the jury yesterday that her former flaminate in Johannesburg, Linda Shaw, would give evidence for the defence that she peeped into the bedroom and saw them having sex.

Her evidence — described by Mr Gray as "utter and complete invention" — also alleged that there were two bodyguards in the bedroom. "It is not clear whether they were participating or watching," Mr Gray said.

Miss Allan, 38, is suing over a programme which she says libelled her by making it quite plain that she had an affair with Mr Terre Blanche, who is married with a daughter. Yesterday she denied having any kind of sexual relationship with him. She did not find him at all physically attractive. "I've always thought he looked rather like a pig in a safari suit," she said. The hearing continues today.

## Punk princess puts family's heirlooms under the hammer

By IAN MURRAY IN BONN AND SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

Princess Gloria Thurn and Taxis, better known to Germany's popular press as the "punk princess", has shocked her family by approaching Sotheby's to sell off a small part of one of the world's largest, oldest and most valuable collections of antiques.

The sale of 250 items of antique jewellery, snuff boxes and silverware, to be held in Geneva in November, is expected to raise about £8 million. According to Horst Schiessl, the official family spokesman, the aim is to raise money to pay death duties.

Prince Johannes Thurn and Taxis died in December 1990 before he had time to complete his plan to transfer the family assets to his seven-year-old son, Prince Albert, to minimise the tax — a ploy successfully followed by his grandfather before he inherited the title in 1952.

Herr Schiessl said yesterday that the sale was no more than sound management. The collection, assembled since the family became rich by founding the world's first postal service in the late fifteenth

century, included items taken from the 25 castles the family sold between 1920 and 1970. It was now so vast and valuable, Herr Schiessl said, that it was costing more to store and insure than it was worth.

A statement issued by the princess's office yesterday said that she has decided against selling any of the family's "profit making real estate and industrial holdings" but rather such "assets like works of art which do not produce revenues".

Further sales are expected to follow, until a rumoured total of £40 million is reached. Pater Emmeran, 90, the dead prince's uncle, is outraged. "Our family has been collecting these possessions for centuries," he told *Bild* newspaper. "What impudence! Gloria is after money."

The family never took kindly to the princess. The daughter of an old but impoverished Saxon aristocratic house she was only 20 when she married the 53-year-old prince in 1980. The fact that she produced three children in quick suc-

## Rachel's father appeals for clues

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE father of Rachel Nickell, who was stabbed to death after a sex attack on Wimbledon Common last Wednesday, yesterday appealed for clues to trap the "monster" who killed her.

Andrew Nickell, 52, was speaking at Scotland Yard after returning with his wife Monica, 48, from a holiday in Canada where the news had been broken to them.

As police prepare to stage a reconstruction of the attack today, Rachel's son Alex, two, who was found clinging to his mother's body, was taken back to the murder scene by his father, André Handscombe, in a fearful homage. They were accompanied by a friend of Rachel who will pose as her in the reconstruction. They paused at the murder scene as the woman placed a red rose on the ground.

Mr Nickell, a former army officer and businessman, said he was numb. His wife was too distressed to attend. "There must be clues or memories which will help police to trace the monster before he does it again to someone else's daughter or mother, or wife or child," he said.

"Rachel was 23 when she died. She was a shining light, a bright star in my life and everybody else's who knew her. Her happiness with André and Alex was so real you could touch it. She can never be replaced in our lives. We can only hope to pick up the pieces but our lives will always be less rich than when she was alive."

Mr Nickell, who seemed calm and composed, earlier saw his grandson. He said that Alex seemed all right but asked that the child be left alone. "He has a long life to live with what has hap-

pened." Accompanied by his son, Mark, 25, who travelled to Canada to tell his parents the details of Rachel's murder, he said: "We have been shown the greatest sympathy and positive help by everybody." He appealed for the family to be allowed to grieve.

"It's difficult for me to answer what she might have done to be more careful. It is like preparing for a streak of lightning coming out of the sky and hitting you. I don't think anyone could have prepared for what happened."

Det Supt John Bassett, leading the murder enquiry, said he was unfortunately still having to appeal for witnesses and looking for a man seen washing his hands in a stream near the scene between 9 and 10.30am. Thirty five officers are continuing the hunt for Rachel's killer.

## Judges to rule later in fire-death case

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

AN ASIAN woman who had been beaten and humiliated by her husband made careful preparations to kill the man who had reduced her to the "nadir of abasement". She setting him alight as he slept in bed, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

The husband had feared she would attack him and suspected that she would attempt to poison him. Robert Harman, QC, for the Crown, said on the second day of Kiranjit Ahluwalia's appeal against her conviction for murder. She threw petrol over her husband and ignited it with a lighter after three hours after he had beaten her.

The judges hearing the appeal yesterday reserved judgment until a later date. The appeal challenges the present law which says that a defence of provocation must include a

"sudden and temporary" loss of self control and no intervening "cooling off" period. Ahluwalia's counsel say longstanding humiliation should be treated by the courts as provocation.

Mr Harman, who said that Ahluwalia contrived for her husband a grisly death, told the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, sitting with Mr Justice Swinton Thomas and Mr Justice Judge, that to accept the defence argument would be to drive a coach and horses through the law on provocation as it stood.

Geoffrey Robertson, QC, for Ahluwalia, said that there was now evidence from four doctors that at the time she killed her husband at Crawley, West Sussex, her responsibility had been substantially diminished.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Russell to direct for BBC

An adaptation of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* directed by Ken Russell will feature in BBC TV's autumn and winter viewing, unveiled yesterday.

Russell's version of the D.H. Lawrence novel is part of a £147 million line-up including a series from the comedian Ben Elton. His novel *Stark* is being turned into a comedy drama for next year, while Dirk Bogarde's book *Voices In The Garden* is part of the Screen Two season.

Christmas productions include a feature-length edition of *Lovejoy* and Agatha Christie's *The Mirror Crack'd From Side To Side*. John Thaw and Lindsay Duncan appear in an adaptation of Peter Mayle's *A Year In Provence*, while Patrick Bergin stars in *The Hummingbird Tree*, filmed in Trinidad.

## Bomber found

A Wellington bomber that crashed on Red Pike in the Lake District in 1943 has been found by walkers after being exposed by a landslide. The aircraft's bombs, which were far from walking routes, were made safe by bomb disposal officers.

## Church gutted

Arsonists may have been responsible for a fire which almost destroyed 800-year-old Holy Trinity parish church at Buckfastleigh, Devon, early yesterday, police said. The vicar, the Rev Paul Wilson, said he hoped that the church would be rebuilt.

## Chief resigns

Peter Gedling, 56, Dorset's senior education officer, resigned yesterday to allow schools to have more of the £300 million education budget. He said: "With our growing financial problems, there is a need to make every possible economy."

## Police car taken

A new 145mph Ford Sierra Cosworth designed to deter joyriders was stolen yesterday from a police compound in Killingworth, Tyne and Wear. The thieves evaded infra-red cameras and moved other police vehicles to steal the car, worth £21,000.



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The Times investigates management seminars and one of the movement's wealthiest gurus

## Mind game courses aimed at public sector workers

STRATHCLYDE Regional Council, Britain's biggest local authority, was approached informally by followers of Werner Erhard about training programmes for staff after at least three councillors had attended courses. A number of other councils have also been contacted.

The approach to Strathclyde comes at a time when there is concern about consultants offering management and staff training courses that are conducted by people who have no medical training in psychiatry.

Frank Pignatelli, director of education at Strathclyde, was invited by a councillor to an introductory session organised by Landmark Education, a London group connected with Erhard, held at the Lorne Hotel, Glasgow.

He was so appalled by the meeting, which included a lot of hugging, that he warned his staff that the group was working through councillors who had attended courses to seek further recruits. He

Ray Clancy, in the second of three articles on New Age training, talks to a woman who is suing her former employer after being sent on a course

described their opinions as "alien to the Scottish culture". The council has been conducting an investigation. "I felt severely sceptical and cynical," Mr Pignatelli told his colleagues.

Attempts by Landmark Education and other groups offering similar courses to move into the public sector are taking place amid growing concern at the effects on some professionals who have been to corporate or individual seminars.

The Times has spoken to several people who have suffered ill effects and to their families and friends. Many are reluctant to discuss their experiences and those examples we quote have asked us to change their names.

Anne, 32, is suing her former employer for personal

injury after she suffered a nervous breakdown as a result of a four-day course organised by outside consultants. She has also issued writs against the consultants.

She had recently been appointed personnel manager in charge of a large department when she was sent with 11 colleagues to a management training seminar at a country house hotel in the Cotswolds. "I was told I had to attend the course but was not given any specific details as to what it would entail. No information was made available about the structure or what we were going to study."

From the outset she was unhappy about the woman running the course whom she describes as "dominant and aggressive". The woman told Anne that she did not believe

in the concept of God and that she "had no God".

"I thought this was a pretty weird way of looking at things. When, during the course, she talked about the empowered person I realised that the course was not following traditional business lines."

Phrases like "freedom from shoulds, orientation to workability" were used and graphs illustrated with mystical style circles and crystals. I underwent three days of subtle criticism which culminated in me being subjected to bullying in front of the whole group," Anne said.

She found herself the odd one out. Psychiatrists say that, because humans thrive on a "sheep mentality" where we like to follow others, it is difficult to resist when you are the odd one out.

"It was dangerous and damaging. I was being shouted at, told I was unfit to do my job. I was taken to one side and counselled by the woman running the course. She even got me to agree to leave my



Undue influence: a poster for one of the training programmes, which have been criticised as dangerous

job. The next morning I vomited, I was in a terrible state. I now realised that I left that course in a state of partial breakdown and it has wiped out four years of my life."

Anne told her senior manager about what happened on the course. He told her there was a second part four months later but she refused to attend. "I had been subjected to four days of engi-

neered stress and amateur psychology. I was not going to put myself through anymore." Later she was asked to resign. "My boss said to me 'at least you won't have to go on the second course' but I felt free. I left and walked into the fresh air."

Anne visited her GP who diagnosed severe depression. She took another job but left after ten days because she

found herself unable to cope. "Everyday when I arrived at work the course just came back at me." Her doctor recommended therapy and she was referred to a psychiatrist. "I took up cross stitch embroidery with a vengeance just to occupy my mind without stressing it."

Anne then went back to her former employer to ask for help in paying her therapy fees. They offered £500 but she refused the payment and is taking legal action instead. It will be a test case.

Charles, 26, who attended a self-improvement course, has found that his work as an accountant has been severely affected. Three days and one evening session of The Forum, run by Landmark Education, left him questioning everything in his life including his relationship with his wife and his work.

"When I had finished The Forum I felt as high as a kite. But when my wife asked me what I had learnt I could not be specific. I felt I had been born again. I had promised not to talk about the course except in the context of persuading others to sign up so it was difficult to have a normal conversation," he said.

Melanie, his wife, was horrified. "My husband was not

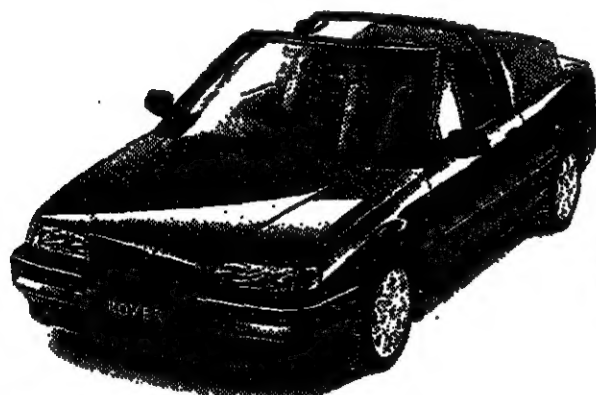
my husband anymore. He kept talking about the power of the being, living in the stands and getting in and getting out of it. It was really weird. When I tried to ask him what he meant by these words he could not explain. He also found it difficult to make decisions and he keeps changing his mind all the time. He seems to be questioning our relationship."

Charles agrees he has difficulty making decisions. He has even considered going back and doing another course because "it might help me. Everything is so difficult at the moment. I cannot make sense of my life."

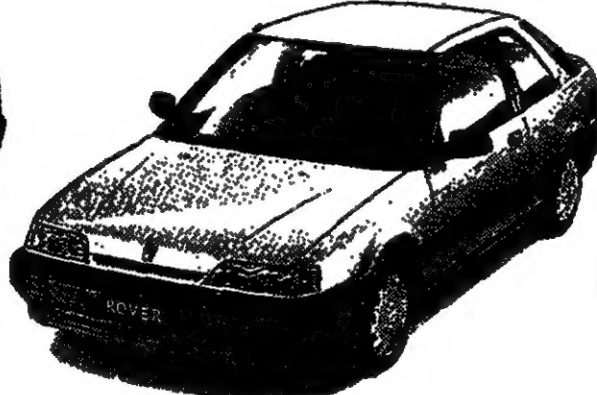


Frank Pignatelli gave warning to colleagues

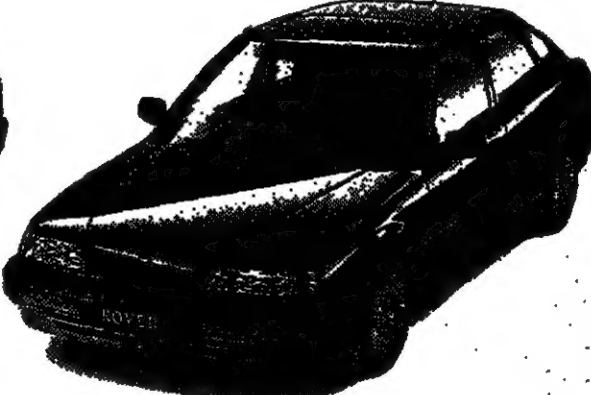
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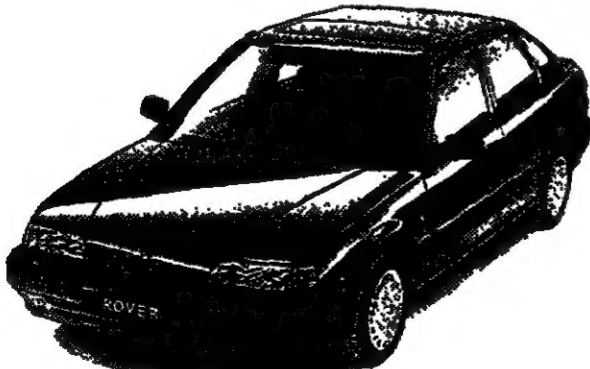
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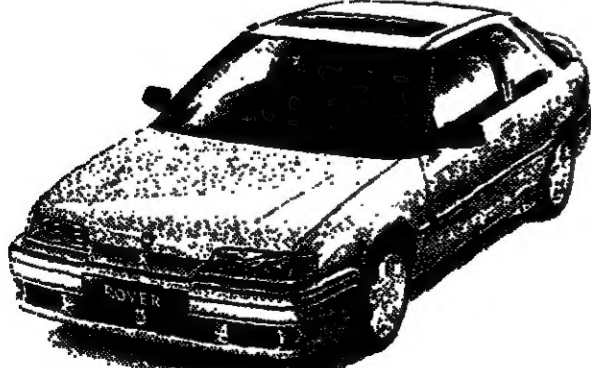
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## New Age guru goes into hiding

The man who sold self-awareness to the "me generation" had earlier sold used cars, reports Ben Macintyre

Werner Erhard, who made a fortune in the 1970s out of his theories of self-awareness, was once Jack Rosenberg, a second-hand car salesman from Philadelphia.

In 1960, aged 25, he eloped to California with a woman he later married, leaving behind his first wife and three children he did not see again for 12 years. He changed his name to Werner Erhard after reading an article in West Germany in *Esquire* magazine which mentioned the theoretical physicist Werner Heisenberg and Ludwig Erhard, then West German economics minister.

After dabbling in a number of human potential disciplines, the inspiration for his own theory of enlightenment occurred to him while driving across the Golden Gate bridge. At the wheel of his black Ford Mustang, Erhard was "transformed", a state he described as "knowing everything and knowing nothing".

The result was EST (Erhard Seminars Training), founded in 1971, which emphasised the need for personal responsibility and the "possibilities of individual fulfilment" through strict training. Erhard, with his slick good looks and startling blue eyes, became the "guru of gurus" to a self-improvement vogue that many believe captured the essence of the "me decade" of the 1970s.

The training sessions offered by EST became notorious for their rigid discipline - trainees were forbidden to go to the lavatory or speak to each other during sessions - and confrontational approach. EST courses usually took place on two consecutive weekends, with trainees being expected to explore life's possibilities under intense and sometimes bullying scrutiny from trainers, for as much as 15 hours a day.

While many alumni claimed that the course had taught them to realise their potential, others said that Erhard was offering quick-fix solutions with a mixture of pop psychology and military-style bullying.

Even so, almost 750,000 people are estimated to have enrolled over 20 years.

In 1984, EST was transformed into The Forum, in which the courses were made less theatrical and grueling and more costly. Erhard's organisation fell into three parts: Werner Erhard and Associates, running workshops including The Forum (which in 1988 alone grossed \$39 million); Transformation Technologies Inc, specialising in management and leadership seminars for corporate clients; and lastly a clutch of non-profit making humanitarian agencies, which were formally independent but based on Erhard's theories.

The 1990s saw the empire begin to disintegrate. There was a messy split from his second wife who stated that his "ego and public image are the most important things in the world to him".

In 1991, several former employees brought lawsuits, charging him with crimes ranging from fraud to physical abuse, all of which he has denied. In February last year, Erhard sold his American assets (valued at \$45 million in 1989) to employees who had formed Transnational Education Corp, now called Landmark Trust. Days later, the Internal Revenue Service filed a \$14.2 tax lien against EST which was followed by liens on \$6.9 million-worth of real estate belonging to Erhard. (A lien enables the IRS to seize and sell property if taxes are left unpaid.) But in August tax officials said they had been able to recover only \$55,000 of the \$5.5 million Erhard allegedly owed.

After two decades in the limelight, the cigar-smoking extrovert has disappeared. Last week, he was ordered to pay more than \$380,000 to a woman who claimed she had suffered a mental breakdown after one of his courses.

Werner Erhard has not been seen in public for more than three months, and the Chicago-based Cult Awareness Network yesterday described his whereabouts as "somewhat of a mystery".



## GPs help to launch biggest survey of childhood asthma

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

ONE million questionnaires are to be distributed to GPs' surgeries, pharmacies and hospitals in the biggest survey of childhood asthma to discover how the disease affects sufferers.

At least 700,000 children are believed to be affected by asthma and hospital admissions have risen five-fold in the past 20 years. Doctors are unclear whether asthma is becoming more common or, more severe, or being diagnosed more often.

Researchers hope the survey will show how the condition, the commonest chronic disease in childhood, affects school performance, family relationships and activity levels. Studies among adults have shown that asthma disturbs sleep and causes time off work but little research has been done with children.

One in five children experiences wheezing but GPs often fail to recognise its cause, diagnosing coughs or colds instead and prescribing the wrong drugs. Studies show it takes an average of seven consultations over three years before an asthmatic child is correctly diagnosed.

Dr Warren Lennay, consultant paediatrician at the Royal Alexandra Hospital,

Brighton, said that admissions of children with asthma had grown from 80 in 1970 to 600 in 1986 but had since stabilised at that level. Asthma had increased in most countries, he said, and could be linked with the spread of viral infections, the growth of central heating, encouraging dust mites, smoking and petrol fumes. "My biggest worry is the increase in the number of young women smoking," he said.

Treating childhood asthma cost an estimated £17.8 million in 1990. Doctors co-ordinating the survey, by Action Asthma, an educational group funded by the drug company Allen and Hanburys, hope at least 40,000 questionnaires will be returned.

Before four-year-old Sean Healy's asthma was diagnosed, he suffered severe bouts of coughing that made him lose his breath, panic and vomit. His aggression, caused by frustration about his condition, frightened his mother who spent sleepless nights listening to her son's wheezing, and propping him up with pillows (Alison Roberts writes). "He was extreme-

ly unsettled and there were problems at school because of his behaviour. It has really affected both our lives. I was so tired and so ratty and worried that I would get cross with him, he would throw a tantrum and that would make his asthma worse," said his mother, Sharon, 30, of Uxbridge, west London.

She was convinced that her son was suffering from recurring chest infections. A health visitor who suffered from asthma herself was the first to recognise Sean's disorder. Mrs Healy said that his illness had been exacerbated, if not caused, by the damp council house in which they live. The council has agreed to rehouse the family.

Sean controls his asthma with an inhaler that takes bronchodilator drugs straight to the lungs. Despite an initial hyperactivity, caused by the drug Ventolin, about nine puffs a day keep attacks to a minimum.



What a life! Having seduced millions of cinemagoers with his winsome looks and ridiculous voice, Roger Rabbit will be put to the art market test today with Raymond Briggs's *Shogun*, John Burningham's *Grappa* and *Rupert Bear* at Sotheby's first sale of British animation art (Sarah Jane Checkland writes). Sibhan Quin of Sotheby's

is shown with Roger in the form of a celluloid or painting on clear acetate attached to an opaque background, which was used in the making of the animated film *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*. There is a big demand for American celluloids; a single colour "cel" from *Snow White* fetched \$190,000 (£100,000) last December in New

York. Now the auctioneers hope to cash in on a potential new market in Britain. But, whereas *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* made film history by combining human and cartoon characters, and reached a worldwide audience, it remains to be seen whether his less glamorous British friends will inspire bids. Cells produced by Bob Godfrey, a

British animator, for *Dear Margery* Books and *Great* will be offered today for between £600 and £1,600. He said British animation had "infinite variety and humour". Among the more esoteric offerings is a sequence of six images by David Anderson for his Channel 4 film, *Deadly*. The artwork shows ghoulish, grinning faces.

### Kit alarms counsellors

## £3 Aids test gives answer in minutes

Simple saliva sampling kits may soon allow partners to check each other for HIV before sex, Nigel Hawkes reports

SIMPLE kits costing less than £3 that can determine from a saliva specimen whether a person has the Aids virus have raised the spectre of do-it-yourself Aids testing.

Some Aids experts are worried that the kits may undermine the system of counselling that is an obligatory part of Aids testing in Britain. One manufacturer has already rejected an order from an escort agency for the kits.

The kits, on show at the eighth International Aids Conference in Amsterdam, produce an answer in seven minutes and are no more difficult to use than pregnancy testing kits. Although originally designed to operate with blood samples, research is showing that they work just as well with saliva. While the makers will not sell the kits except to recognised laboratories, Patrick Dixon, medical director of Aids Care Education and Training, a British Aids charity, fears that a black market may develop.

"Mail order or over-the-counter home testing kits could be dangerous," he said. "Some people might be driven to suicide by a positive result without immediate expert support and help. A negative result could encourage people to carry on with risky behaviour, so that they later become infected."

Dr Dixon also fears that the kits might be used in screening for jobs and insurance, or by immigration officers in countries that prevent HIV-positive people from entering. One of the kits, the Test Pack, made by the US company Abbott Laboratories, is

used by recognised laboratories for Aids testing, using blood samples. The kit, about the size of a wrist watch, is supplied in boxes of 40 with all the chemicals needed, for \$200 (£105) a box. Abbott emphasised it has no intention of selling the kits except to appropriate customers.

Another American company, Saliva Diagnostic Systems (SDS), has developed a foolproof method of collecting the saliva samples. An absorbent pad attached to a collector tube is placed under the tongue for two minutes. A colour change in the tube shows that an adequate sample has been collected.

Research presented to the conference shows that the saliva collector, with the Abbott Test Pack, produces the same results with saliva as with blood samples. David Barnes, SDS medical affairs director, said that the kits would enable rapid testing of large numbers of people. "We could test 350 people in ten minutes."

The company intends early next year to launch a complete test kit of its own, able to produce results even more rapidly than the Abbott tester. "Government regulations in the UK say that we cannot test anybody without pre-test counselling, so there is no question of the kits being sold over-the-counter," Dr Barnes said.

Dr Dixon believes, however, that the companies may find it impossible to control the use of their products. He envisages the kits being used in the bedroom. "New partners may be able to test each other before sex," he said.

## Patients without HIV confound doctors

BY NIGEL HAWKES

SCIENTISTS are puzzled by growing evidence that it is possible to suffer from Aids without being infected by HIV, the Aids virus. The Aids Conference in Amsterdam yesterday heard a string of doctors reporting cases of the mystery disease, which amounts to Aids without a cause. The cases totalled almost two dozen, with suggestions of many more.

Dr Jeffrey Laurence of Cornell University reported five such patients, all in New York. The Centres for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia, knows of another six, while Dr Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute in Paris reported two.

At the conference it is an article of faith that Aids and HIV are inseparable. Indeed, James Curran of CDC said that these patients were not suffering from Aids, by definition, because they did not

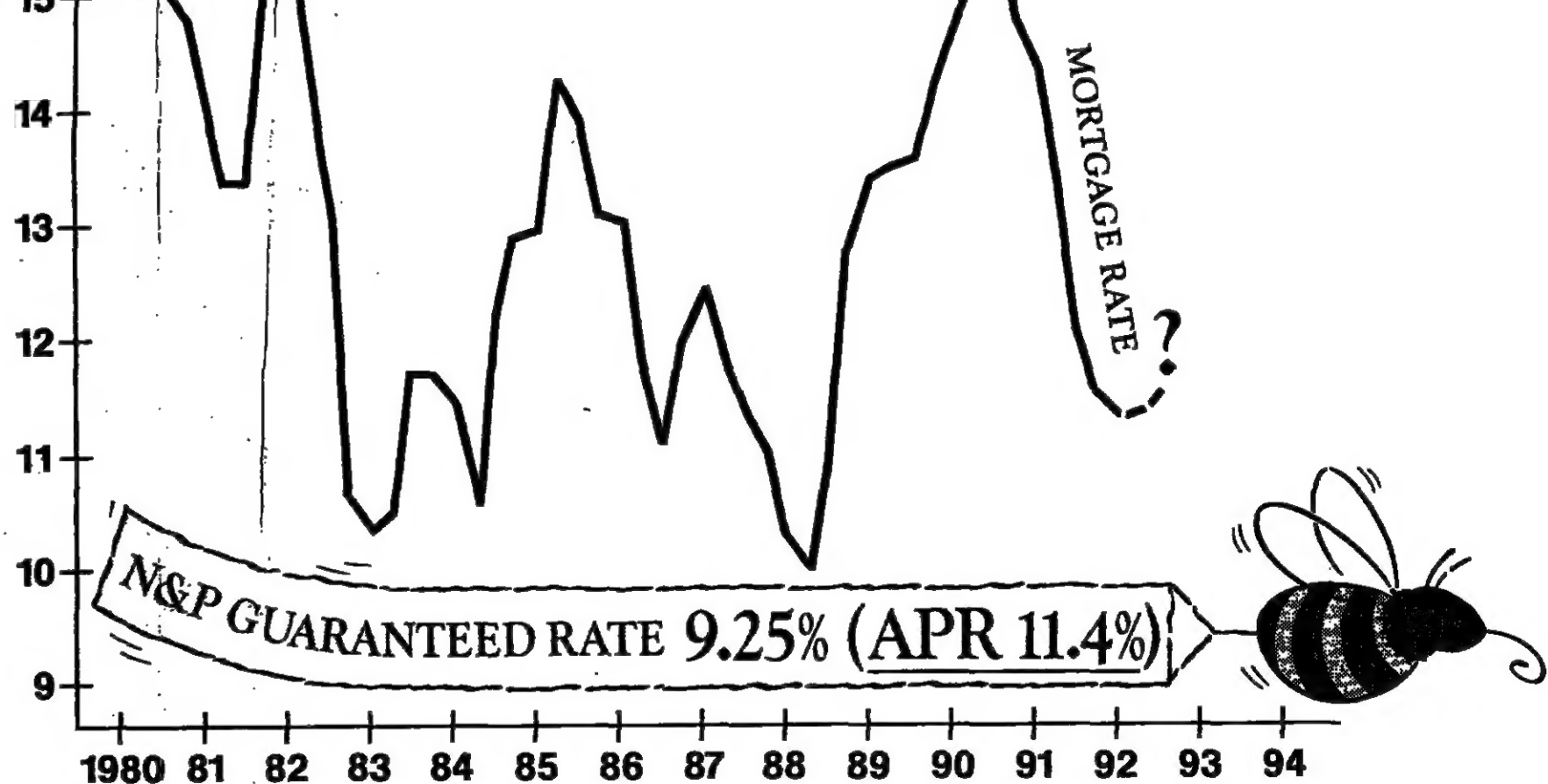
test positive to HIV-1 or HIV-2. Everybody agreed, however, that their symptoms were indistinguishable from those of Aids sufferers.

Did that mean there was another cause that could not be detected by present methods? That was a conclusion most were reluctant to draw. Dr Curran cautioned that the second group might simply have genetic or other reasons for immune deficiency, and would not have been linked except for the interest in Aids and the amount of HIV testing.

Dr Montagnier, the discoverer of HIV, said that his patients had an HIV-like virus sufficiently different to evade detection. Dr Anthony Fauci from the US National Institutes of Health appealed to doctors knowing of more cases to come forward so that the mystery could be resolved.

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Election pledges threatened in public spending curbs

## Treasury seeks cash squeeze

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHERMAN

SENIOR ministers will be warned today by the prime minister and the Chancellor that some of the pledges in the Tory election manifesto may have to be deferred in the interests of squeezing public spending and cutting back the public sector deficit.

Some of the biggest and most cherished spending programmes, including housing, roads and the inner cities, are threatened as the cabinet prepares to order that any spending over 1993-4's planning total of £244.5 billion should be kept to a bare minimum, and that the bids for extra spending of some £14 billion be slashed to the low single figures.

The government's difficulties this week with the building societies, when the Treasury succumbed to pressure to cut the interest rate on the new National Savings bond to forestall a run of mortgage rate rises, are to be used as ammunition by Michael Portillo, the Treasury chief secretary.

However stringent the cabinet decides to be, it will not be able to prevent the ratio of public expenditure to national

income rising for the fourth consecutive year. Currently standing at 41.5 per cent, it is set to rise to more than 43 per cent next year.

Mr Lamont will give today's meeting the Treasury's revised forecast for output, far less optimistic than the prediction in his Budget four months ago. The Treasury is believed to have set its sights on the transport department's £6.3 billion three-year programme to improve trunk roads and motorways, and the environment department's £7.5 billion budget for housing, as well as savings in the urban programme.

Spending ministers who argue that they are merely fulfilling manifesto pledges, will find that they can take nothing for granted. The riposte from the Treasury is likely to be that manifesto pledges do not have to be met in the first two years of a parliament.

The key battle areas are: Social security. The biggest spending department is the one area where the government has its hands tied and faces large increases. Mr Portillo will find it difficult to

counter arguments from Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, for more money for the unemployed and other benefit claimants just to meet current obligations. Mr Lilley is expected to argue for at least £1.6 billion extra for unemployment benefit alone.

The government is committed to raising child benefit and retirement pensions in line with inflation. With unemployment higher than estimated in the public spending white paper, the social security bid is expected to be significantly higher than the £71 billion baseline for next year.

About £7 billion is expected to be spent this year on the unemployed. The unemployment figure for June is 2.72 million against an assumed 2.4 million in the white paper for this year and next.

Health: Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, will have to fight hard to hang on to the 2.75 per cent real terms increase laid down in the white paper, boosting spending on health by about £2 billion to about £30 billion. Most ministers argue that health has benefited at the expense of

other spending departments over the past few years. Although the prime minister is committed to real growth in health spending, the Treasury will try hard to reduce the growth to a minimum. Mrs Bottomley will argue her corner for about £600 million to £800 million to fund the community care policy. About £400 million is expected to be transferred from the social security budget with extra money needed for start-up costs. Mrs Bottomley will also demand extra cash to fund the health service reforms and protect London's hospitals.

Environment: The department will be lobbying for significant funds to implement the council tax while trying to ward off attempts to cut its capital spending. A detailed bid on the council tax will not be put in until the autumn, although it could cost an extra £1 billion.

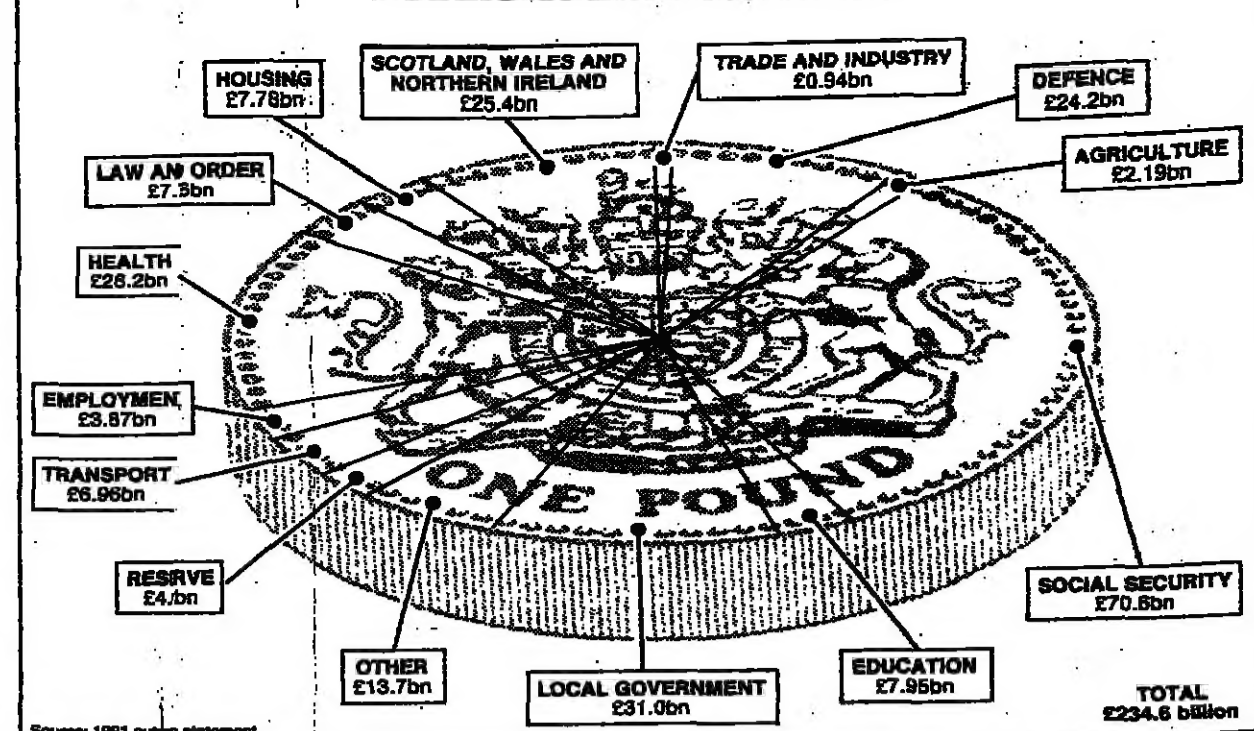
Education: Capital spending bids are expected to be reduced, and the further education budget to be heavily scrutinised.

Defence: A bid for the European Fighter Aircraft will

need to be justified against cheaper alternatives. Defence ministers will be able to argue that the Options for Change programme will cut real costs in the long term.

Ministers before a strong signal from today's meeting is essential to calm the markets and prevent fresh pressure on the pound.

## PUBLIC SPENDING 1992-3



Source: 1991 Budget statement

In the early Thatcher years the cabinet used to agree to hold to the previously agreed planning totals and, helped by a little massaging at the edges and some tough bargaining, the chief secretary of the day usually managed to reach the target. The formula changed in 1987, when public spending overall was some

£90 billion lower than it is today.

In the past three years the objective, as set out by Downing Street, has been broadly similar. The 1991 communique read: "The government agreed that strict control of public spending... must be maintained by sticking as closely as possible to

existing planning totals with the aim of keeping the ratio of public spending, excluding privatisation proceeds, to GDP on a downward trend." If all the portents have been interpreted correctly today's announcement will be significantly tougher.

Leading article, page 13

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## Agency to tackle inner-city blight

BY DOUGLAS BROOM  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE government took the first step towards bringing all its inner-city initiatives under one roof yesterday with the announcement of detailed plans for an urban regeneration agency to tackle inner-city blight.

Michael Howard, the environment secretary, said the new quango would take over responsibility for the City Grant and Derelict Land Grant schemes and absorb English Estates, the state-run commercial property company.

Lord Walker, the former cabinet minister, will chair the agency, which will have a budget of at least £250 million a year. A bill will be introduced into the Commons in November and the agency is expected to begin work next summer. Mr Howard said its primary aim would be to bring the 150,000 acres of vacant and derelict land in towns and cities back into use.

The agency's work would also ease pressure for development in the countryside. The area of unused urban land was five times the acreage converted from agriculture to urban use each year, he said.

The agency would not compete with private sector developers or the 11 existing urban development corporations, but would have similar compulsory purchase and planning powers. It would aim to generate £5 of private investment for every £1 it spent.

As well as initiating redevelopment schemes for business and housing, the agency would also give grants to developers seeking to build on inner-city sites and would build its own premises to let. Mr Howard said the agency would also be expected to tackle areas of urban blight outside the main cities.

The Tory general election manifesto committed the government to bringing all inner-city initiatives under a single budget. Mr Howard

said work was still going on to bring that promise to fruition.

Under present plans the £750 million City Challenge scheme will remain under direct ministerial control, as will schemes designed to improve inner-city housing.

Mr Howard condemned recent violence on housing estates in Bristol and Burnley. He said the government recognised there were problems in urban areas but these could never be an excuse for "lawless behaviour".

Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, denounced the agency as "another gimmick" which did nothing to tackle the despair felt by people in inner cities at mounting problems of unemployment and poverty. The disturbances in Bristol had been due, in part, to the city's failure to win funding for inner-city regeneration under the government's competitive City Challenge scheme, described by Mr Gould as "a game show". Urban decay and riots were the inevitable price of Tory policy, he said.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England said the agency would test the depth of the government's commitment to protect the countryside by encouraging the re-use of derelict urban land.



Walker to chair urban regeneration body

## Smith grabs chance to stay in public eye

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

JOHN Smith was presented with an unexpected opportunity yesterday to project himself in his new role as Labour leader. During an otherwise low-key schedule in his first days in office, Mr Smith, 47, demanded that John Major, the Conservative prime minister, investigate allegations that a cabinet minister had tried to smear Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, during the general election campaign.

Labour officials recognise that the timing of Mr Smith's election, immediately after Parliament began its three-month summer recess, could deprive him of media coverage. Labour is anxious that Mr Smith should be able to exploit the government's uneasy economic position in particular.

There have been fears that the creation of Labour's new leadership team might be overshadowed. Such fears were fuelled by the lack of media coverage of last week's long-predicted election of Mr Smith and Margaret Beckett, his deputy.

Today's publication of the

balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures and retail sales will offer Mr Smith and his team further opportunity to maintain a public presence. He will also have the chance to show his authority at his first national executive committee meeting as leader.

Yesterday Mr Smith had his first formal talks as party leader with a foreign dignitary, meeting President Salinas de Gortari of Mexico in London, before opening the new constituency office of Chris Smith, MP for Islington South and Finsbury in north London.

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## National unit demanded to combat IRA

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE chief constable of the RUC last night called for the government to create a national police unit to combat crime and terrorism as part of an overhaul of the structure of Britain's police service.

Sir Hugh Annesley criticised recent developments in the police service designed to improve the fight against terrorism activity and counter the IRA's mainland campaign. He said that although a national response seemed to be evolving through the role of the national co-ordinator of police counter terrorism and the setting up of an advisory committee group of chief constables to co-ordinate police work, a more comprehensive approach was needed to tackle terrorism. The advisory group "is a compromise solution when a bolder thrust is necessary", Sir Hugh said, in a lecture to the Police Foundation in London. "The



Sir Hugh: "A bolder thrust is necessary"

creation of a national anti-terrorist unit would provide a cohesive and common approach to all terrorist activity."

The time was right for the police service to adopt a more realistic and unified approach towards countering terrorist activity even if that upset a few chief constables. "We really must face a serious

threat with a realistic and professional response", he said.

Under Sir Hugh's plan, the national anti-terrorist unit would have the operational capacity to deal with terrorist activity while being responsible for cultivating information, analysing intelligence and providing training and support services to officers in the squad. He said the new squad should include members of the security service, Metropolitan Police Special Branch and anti-terrorist unit and have input from provincial forces, the military and Customs and Excise.

In an attempt to overcome arguments about the accountability of the national unit, Sir Hugh said that they should be overseen by advisory boards and that ultimate responsibility would rest with the home secretary.

His speech comes only ten weeks after Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, announced that MI5 officers were to take overall responsibility for intelligence operations against the IRA in mainland Britain. Sir Hugh said pointedly that the RUC was the main supplier of intelligence to mainland Britain and any diminution in the flow of information to the RUC would have detrimental consequences for security on the mainland.

The national crime unit, which would have an operational as well as intelligence role, would deal with increasingly sophisticated criminals involved in kidnapping, drug trafficking, money laundering, robbery and large scale burglary, Sir Hugh said.

Such types of crime were national and international and threatened to undermine legitimate businesses. They demanded a response not based on the existing nine regional crime squads, which were only an interim answer to serious organised crime.

## Easterly winds blow in rare birds

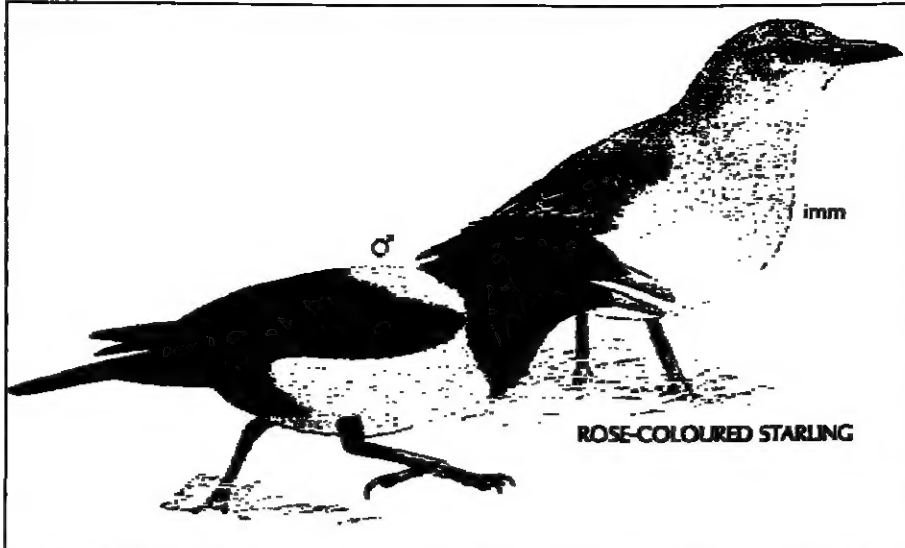
Birdwatchers are enjoying an exceptional year spotting rare and exotic visitors, writes Lucy Rock

BIRDWATCHERS do not have to travel abroad to see exotic species this summer — record numbers of birds from distant habitats are coming to Britain.

The reasons are fine weather and the predominantly easterly winds in May and June. Earlier this week a pallid swift was spotted among common swifts at Flamborough Head, Humberside, making its first visit from Mediterranean regions to the UK for eight years. This is only the seventh time that the species has been seen in the UK. The last six sightings were reported between 1978 and 1984.

Many birds usually found in eastern and southern Europe are being seen in Britain. One unexpected visitor last weekend to a reed bed at Haverton Hill near Billingham, Cleveland, was the penduline tit.

Others include a rose-coloured starling seen on the island of Coll in the Inner Hebrides and a woodchat shrike near Didcot, Oxfordshire, which had deviated from its normal migration route from southern



Prized sightings: fine weather is bringing in record numbers of unusual species

Europe to the south of France or Spain.

There is also a great white egret at Stanford Reservoir near Lutterworth, Leicestershire, which is likely to be from central Europe. Thousands of these herons were killed in the late nineteenth century for their plumage to be used in the millinery trade.

Most of the species being sighted around the country are either birds that have lost their way during migration, or young non-breeding birds that are not tied to a particular breeding ground and able to wander. The biggest influx consists of an estimated 150 red-footed falcons that have ap-

peared since mid-May, four times the previous highest total for a full year, according to the Bird Information Service. These small insect-eating birds of prey were drifted off course by easterly winds while migrating from Africa to their usual summer haunts in eastern Europe and Asia.

Richard Millington, from the service, said it had been an exceptional year for unusual birds flying to the UK, with some especially rare visitors from North Africa and the Middle East. There had been record sightings of white-winged black terns, scarlet rosefinches and Mediterranean warblers.



race pendulinus

PENDULINE TIT

## Families in hiding from mob

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE families of two teenage girls charged with the murder of a woman aged 70 were being sheltered by police yesterday after a mob of 200 neighbours drove them from their homes in Wales. The two homes were attacked with stones, bonies and a baseball bat during the 90-minute siege.

Christine Molloy and Maria Rossi, both 17, were remanded in custody charged with murdering Edna Phillips, who was stabbed more than 20 times at her home in Penywaun, Mid Glamorgan.

A police van drove through the protesters and backed up to the front door of the Rossi house to rescue the defendant's parents, with their three children.

Villagers then moved on to Miss Molloy's family home from where police rescued her parents and their 14-year-old son.

A doctor was later called to the home of one of the defendant's grandparents after they were allegedly threatened.

Police in riot gear were attacked by a mob hurling petrol bombs, stones and bottles during four hours of violence on the Stoops housing estate in Burnley, Lancashire, early yesterday. Seventeen people were arrested.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Producer wins libel damages

Joel Douglas, the film producer and son of Kirk Douglas, accepted a public apology and substantial undisclosed libel damages in the High Court yesterday.

A *Sunday Express* article headlined "Kirk's son in murder quiz" had linked him to a triple murder in Arizona and a £7 million film swindle.

The newspaper said it had not intended to suggest that Mr Douglas, producer of *Romancing the Stone* and *Jewel of the Nile*, both starring his brother Michael, was in any way associated with either episode.

### Specialist dies

Dr Munawar Hussain, 53, a children's eye specialist, died after jumping 120ft from his flat in Edgbaston, Birmingham, to escape a fire. Seconds later, firemen reached his door. A brigade spokesman said: "If he had stayed calm we could have rescued him."

### Crew rescued

Three fishermen were rescued from lifeboats yesterday after their boat, the *Laura Hird* from North Shields, sank 24 miles east of Amble, Northumberland. They were saved by the *Boat Venture*, another fishing boat, after firing distress flares.

### Cockles seized

The Scottish Office is asking local authorities to introduce bylaws to curb gangs using tractors and harvesters to scoop up tonnes of cockles on Scottish beaches, depriving local people of the shellfish. The gangs move on before banning orders can be laid.

### Writer returns

The science and space writer Arthur C. Clarke, whose work includes *2001: A Space Odyssey*, has been awarded the freedom of Minehead, Somerset, where he was born 75 years ago. He was attending a space festival on a visit from his home in Sri Lanka.

## MoD halts auction of Churchill's wartime secrets

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

SOTHEBY'S withdrew from auction a secret wartime file belonging to Winston Churchill yesterday after intervention by the Ministry of Defence.

The file contains confidential memoranda from the prime minister to commanders in the Middle East, and, according to the anonymous vendor, comes with a note to the civil servant T.W. Inglis-Jones saying: "You might like to keep these valuable documents as a matter of historical interest."

After being alerted to the sale by *The Times*, however, the defence ministry contacted Sotheby's saying it was taking legal steps to reclaim the papers. Sotheby's issued a statement

saying the vendor believed the ministry was being unreasonable "given the circumstances in which this property came into his possession and the length of time that has passed". A Sotheby's spokesman added that the company feared that the incident would drive similar dossiers of historic interest underground.

The Churchill file was to have been a highlight of a manuscript sale which, in an any event, attracted wide interest because of other newsworthy material on offer.

Eight suitcases containing the diaries, autobiographical novel and diet sheets of Diana Dors were bought for

£3,808 by a fan. Afterwards Raymond Sanderson, of Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, said that he had been obsessed with the actress for 41 years.

A collection of letters and notes — often cantankerous in tone — written by Marlene Dietrich mainly to her manager in the 1970s sold for £2,530 to an anonymous collector. They had been estimated at £1,200-£1,500.

Ambitious claims by the auction house that a portrait painted 34 years after Shakespeare's death did in fact depict the bard appear to have been given credit when the work sold on its lower estimate for £66,000 to the London dealers Quaritch. The firm

also spent £29,700 (double estimate) on Sir Isaac Newton's own annotated copy of his *Arithmetica Universalis* and £10,450 for 12 letters from Dylan Thomas to an old schoolfriend.

Page proofs for the three volumes of *The Lord of the Rings*, with many questions marked and courteously answered by J.R.R. Tolkien himself, sold to the London dealer E. Joseph for £12,100.

A handwritten fragment of a play bearing a close resemblance to a scene from Shakespeare's *Henry IV, Part I* and claimed by the Shakespeare enthusiast Francis Carr to be by Francis Bacon, failed to attract bids.

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The 155 offers a choice of four engines, all mounted transversely for front wheel or four wheel drive: there are 129 bhp 1.8 and 143 bhp 2.0 Twin Sparks. The potent 2.5 V6 which Autocar & Motor describe as "one of the finest engines in production". And the giant-killing turbocharged 2.0 16 valve in the Cloverleaf 4 with four wheel drive. Naturally, every 155 delivers the performance you'd expect of an Alfa Romeo, from the 125 mph maximum (where permitted) of

the 1.8 to the 0-60 in 6.8 seconds and 140 mph top speed of the Cloverleaf 4.

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## Clinton takes 30% lead as Bush hits record low

GLOOM over the poor performance of the American economy and fears among voters that unemployment will continue to rise are contributing to a huge erosion of voter confidence in President Bush. At the same time the poor economic picture is propelling Bill Clinton into a commanding two-to-one lead over his Republican rival in the opinion polls.

According to surveys published yesterday, Mr Clinton is now about 30 per cent ahead of Mr Bush, who has suffered in the past 12 months the biggest fall in popularity ever recorded in polls for an incumbent president. More than 50 per cent of voters disapprove of the way Mr Bush is running the White House.

Few incumbents have gone into an election with negative ratings as low as President Bush's and still secured victory. Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson and Jimmy Carter also suffered high disapproval ratings but only Truman managed to overcome his unpopularity to win a second term.

A poll published in *The Washington Post* yesterday suggested that voters were not convinced by White House claims that the economy would improve. It indicated that almost half of the electorate expect the economy to

Few incumbents have gone into an election with negative ratings as low as President Bush's and still managed a victory, Jamie Dettmer writes from Washington.



worsen and a third expect it to stay bumpy along the bottom. The depth of the gloom recorded by the survey also suggested that voters are unlikely to be persuaded by Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chairman, who yesterday told a Senate committee that he believed the economy should pick up soon and enjoy a modest recovery which would push the unemployment rate down next year.

The *Post* poll also showed that Dan Quayle is not helping Mr Bush's re-election effort. 63 per cent of those polled disapproved of Mr Quayle's performance. Several Republican senators in the past few days have urged Mr Bush privately to replace Mr Quayle as his running mate with Richard Cheney, the defence

secretary. The chances of Mr Quayle being dropped are very slim. By contrast, Senator Al Gore is viewed favourably by those polled, with 55 per cent saying he was a good choice by Governor Clinton.

Yesterday's surveys suggest that the surge Governor Clinton enjoyed in the wake of last week's Democratic convention is not yet over. Although it is traditional for presidential nominees to experience a so-called post-convention bounce, Mr Clinton's has been unprecedented in its strength. Weekend polls gave him leads ranging from 20 to 24 per cent. Yesterday's surveys put him 29 and 30 per cent ahead.

There was no doubting the confidence of the Clinton camp yesterday. It was posi-

tively exuding good cheer on the fifth day of a six-day, 1,000-mile bus tour through the Rust Belt states of America's industrial heartland. Campaign managers have pulled no punches in their efforts to present Mr Clinton and his running mate as the Kennedys of the 1990s. And they have been Reaganesque in their ability to manipulate visual political images linking the Democrat pair to youth and energy.

Mr Clinton has looked relaxed on the tour, particularly when visiting small farm towns. In his appearances, he has generally worn plaid shirts instead of suits. In the small Ohio town of Wilmington on Monday night, he sat on a bale of hay with a stem of straw in his mouth and talked to farmers about agriculture. It was window-dressing that Ronald Reagan would have been proud of.

So far, the Republican effort to label the Democrat candidates as typical "tax-and-spend liberals" has failed to hit home. There were signs late on Monday that the Republicans will soon start raising the "character question" about the Arkansas governor.

Marlin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, said the Bush campaign would soon start getting "aggressive", one of his code words for negative campaigning. Mr Bush also signalled a tougher White House line against Mr Clinton during a Monday night satellite link-up with supporters in 27 states. "On November 3, the American people will make a choice, and they'll decide who has what it takes, who has the experience, the integrity and the character to lead this great nation," he said.

Outwardly, White House aides remain convinced that Mr Bush's fortunes will rebound after next month's Republican convention in Houston and they argue that there is always panic in the Grand Old Party after the Democratic convention.

But White House aides privately admit that the lacklustre Bush-Quayle '92 campaign is in serious trouble.



Instrument of death: Jack Kevorkian explaining his "suicide machine" during an interview in October 1989

## 'Dr Death' cleared of murder charges

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

AN AMERICAN judge yesterday dismissed murder charges against Jack Kevorkian after he helped two very ill women from Michigan end their lives last year.

Dr Kevorkian, whose history of helping patients to die by using a "suicide machine" of his own invention has earned him the sobriquet "Dr Death", had been accused of causing the deaths of Sherry Miller and Marjorie Wanz in October 1991.

Yesterday's ruling in the first-degree murder charge, which carries a mandatory life sentence on conviction, stated that Michigan had no law against assisted suicide. Judge David Breck also pointed out that prosecutors had failed to prove that Dr Kevorkian had personally activated the devices which the two women used to kill themselves.

The judge requested, but did not order the doctor to

desist from counselling the terminally ill who want to die until legislative action is taken to resolve the complex legal and ethical issues involved. Supporters of legalised doctor-assisted suicide said yesterday that the decision might accelerate legal reform, but this is not likely to happen soon.

But Dr Kevorkian's lawyer has said that the doctor has no intention of stopping his controversial methods. Miller, 42, had advanced multiple sclerosis and killed herself by inhaling carbon monoxide. Wanz, 58, suffered from acute pelvic pain and used a lethal injection of drugs. Dr Kevorkian does not deny being present when both women died, nor that he constructed the machines which killed them.

Yesterday the 63-year-old retired pathologist from Michigan said: "This is the way it should always have been. This is a medical service."

## Mandela lays wreath at Khomeini shrine

Nelson Mandela placed a wreath at the shrine of Ayatollah Khomeini on a visit to Iran. Tehran Radio reported the ANC president as saying, "the imam's [Khomeini's] ideas encouraged us during our struggle against apartheid". Mr Mandela was given a welcome befitting a head of state. Earlier he met King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

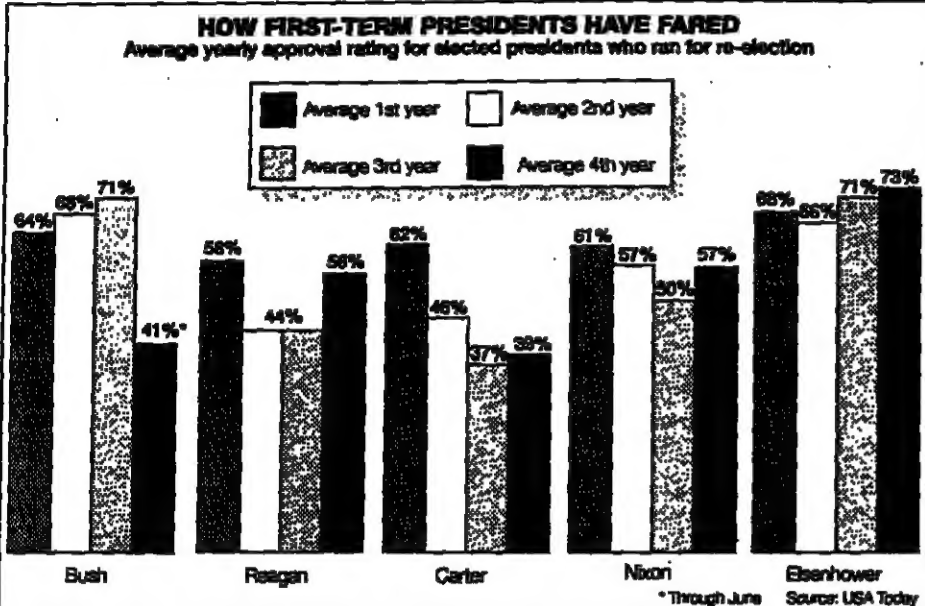
Natalia Solzhenitsyn, wife of writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn, said that in a two-month search she had been unable to find a suitable home for them in Russia. She said her husband wanted to return home from America, but he would not join any political group.

President François Mitterrand of France has decided to

have no more wreaths laid in his name at the tomb of Philippe Pétain, the second world war collaborationist leader, according to Serge Klarsfeld, the French Jewish campaigner. M Mitterrand was jeered at by protesters on July 16 when he laid a wreath.

King Baudouin of Belgium, who has undergone two operations in the past year, used his independence day speech to quell rumours that he would abdicate. "Now that the doctor have given me back my excellent health, I will be glad to continue to serve you," he said.

Hotel owner Leonas Heimsky, in prison for tax fraud, was taken by guards to the bedside in New York of her ailing husband, Harry Heimsky.



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# Baker takes up the daunting task of winning over Assad

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, yesterday embarked on the toughest challenge of his Middle East peace mission, when he arrived in Damascus to enlist support for his initiative from President Assad, the hardline Syrian leader.

Mr Baker left Jerusalem after three days of talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders in an optimistic mood because of the change in atmosphere caused by the new government of Yitzhak Rabin. He said he planned to take the message that "there is a new opportunity to move forward with peace talks" as he continues his tour with visits to key Arab capitals to try to encourage gestures of goodwill.

Yesterday he met King Hussein of Jordan in Amman before flying to Damascus, where his scheduled meeting with Mr Assad was postponed because of the death of the Syrian leader's mother. He will be visiting Egypt and Saudi Arabia later in the week.

Mr Baker's optimistic mood was primarily the result of several rounds of talks with the week-old Labour-led coalition government, which has already taken steps to curb Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and implement self-rule for the 1.8 million Palestinians in the territories.

Senior leaders of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation met in Tunis yesterday to co-ordinate their response to Mr Rabin's peace overtures. They remain divided over how to react to his pledge to reach an agreement with Palestinians in the occupied territories for limited self-rule.

Although Mr Baker was evidently encouraged by the new Israeli approach and the signs of a softening of attitudes among Palestinian leaders and the Jordanian monarch, his real work begins today when he meets President Assad, the region's most consistent hardliner and one of the most powerful Arab rulers.

The official Syrian press has accused the new Israeli government of trying to mislead Western public opinion with a more flexible approach. Privately, the Syrian leadership is afraid that it will be marginalised in the current peace efforts, now concentrated on the Palestinian issue, to the detriment of Syria's demands for the return of the Golan Heights, which Mr Rabin has refused to relinquish.

"Rabin has made it clear that he wants to sort out the Palestinian question first and then deal with the Golan Heights," said one Israeli official. "He has calculated that Syria is weak and will not be able to challenge alone a US-led initiative supported by key Arab states."

However, during his talks with the Israeli leader, Mr Baker warned Mr Rabin of the possible consequences of marginalising Damascus, which is hosting a meeting of Arab delegations this weekend to discuss a joint position on the peace process. Both Israel and America are aware that the last time President Assad was ignored over Lebanon, both countries in turn were embroiled in a humiliating guerrilla war against Syrian-backed militias. Similarly when Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, defied Damascus, the Syrian leader engineered a revolt within the PLO's ranks.

Yesterday Israel was given a grim reminder of the continued dangers when an Israeli soldier was killed and three injured in southern Lebanon in a roadside bomb attack by Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed Shia Muslim organisation which operates with Syria's connivance.

As David Kimche, the former director-general of Israel's foreign ministry, concluded in his recently published book, *The Last Option*, peacemakers in the Middle East would be well advised to remember the formula proposed by King Hussein's late father, Abdullah, who was murdered for trying to make peace in the region in 1951.

"He had warned Israel and the Palestinians to remember that the Arabs could not make peace without Egypt and could not make peace without Syria," wrote the British-born diplomat at the start of the current peace process. "It was timely for us to recall that old man's advice."

● **Nicosia:** Iraq's official media made no mention of rumours circulating in the region that President Saddam Hussein had been assassinated. Egypt's Middle East News agency, monitored by the BBC, said in a dispatch from Kuwait that the rumours had spread there but that there was no information confirming them. The Iraqi news agency, monitored here, was broadcasting normally. (Reuters)

Historic talks, page 1



Baker yesterday: pleased with his efforts in Israel

## Israeli leader visits Egypt's last Jews

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

DEFYING the risk of a Muslim fundamentalist ambush, Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, yesterday concluded his trip to Cairo with a visit to the only functioning city centre synagogue, spiritual home for one of the Middle East's smallest Jewish communities.

From a thriving total of 75,000 in 1948, the Jews in Egypt now number fewer than 140, with the majority elderly women without families living in Cairo. The rest are in Alexandria.

"There are so few of us, that this is really more of a museum than a place of worship. We do not have weddings or anything like that any more, as we are all too old," explained the elderly concierge of the synagogue on Adli Pasha Street, close to a number of seedy Arab hotels.

The concierge spoke in French, the favoured language of the remaining Egyptian Jews, who also often speak Arabic. "Very few communicate or read in Hebrew," she added, refusing to give her name as she said that interviews were not approved by the Egyptian security authorities. An Egyptian secret policeman stood by as she spoke.

Where once scores of synagogues were filled with Sabbath worshippers, the one visited by Mr Rabin and his heavily armed entourage is the only one officially open in

Cairo although a few others are occasionally opened up. The rigid security around the faded building with its rubbish-strewn entrance was an indication of the difficulties faced in eliminating the traditional hatred between Arabs and Jews. Throughout the day, repeated searches were made for bombs and potential snipers, but most Arabs in the vicinity seemed uninterested in their Israeli guest.

"The visit by Rabin has revived many hopes," the concierge added. "We are all hoping that, inshallah [the Arabic term meaning 'God willing'], it will bring real peace."

The mass exodus of Jews from Egypt began after the 1952 revolution and gathered pace after the 1956 Suez crisis and Nasser's decision to nationalise the personal properties of the rich. "This building has never been closed down. We who have remained have stayed because we liked the city and because the Egyptians have been good to us," the concierge added. "I will never leave now, but it is sad not having any young people. Our people have spread everywhere—Europe, America and of course Israel."

Since the 1979 peace treaty, Israel has ensured that the dwindling community of Egyptian Jews receives special deliveries of the unleavened bread eaten during Passover.

## Buthelezi widens the rift with Mandela

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

MOVES by the mainly Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party and statements by Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the party leader, have widened the rift between it and the African National Congress. Cyrus Vance, the United Nations envoy, who arrived in South Africa last night, faces a tough job to get the quarrelling sides together to end the violence and start negotiating again.

A meeting of the signatories to the national peace accord, which was to have been held next week to review the progress since last September, seems likely to be boycotted by Inkatha, after a fiery declaration by Chief Buthelezi that he could no longer sit in the same room as Nelson Mandela, the ANC president.

The chief told 10,000 delegates at his party's 17th annual conference in Umtata at the weekend that Mr Mandela's speech to the UN Security Council was "too much to endure. How or earth does one sit down and talk to a person like Mandela," he said, "when in fact he has thrown down a gauntlet, which we shall have to pick up or suffer total political ignominy among those sections of the community who are prepared to die for the ideals we serve."

At the UN, the Inkatha Freedom Party was attacked by Mr Mandela as a surrogate for the government which, he said, was waging a campaign of state terrorism against its opponents. Chief Buthelezi accused him in turn of having declared war on Inkatha.

Delegates at the Inkatha conference resolved that

Umkhonto we Sizwe, the military wing of the ANC, must be disbanded by September 14, the anniversary of the signing of the peace accord, and made Inkatha's participation in any future negotiations or peace forums conditional on that. The resolution emphasised the Inkatha view that Umkhonto we Sizwe was a common denominator in the political violence.

It is unlikely that Umkhonto we Sizwe would be disbanded. It is more likely that, as a result of the negotiating process being resumed and satisfactorily concluded, its members will be inducted into the South African Defence Force.

At the same time, the Inkatha Freedom Party seems to have drawn even closer to the government in the stalled negotiations. A reporter for *The Star*, the Johannesburg newspaper, who attended the Umtata conference, said that "while Inkatha has continued to maintain that it has no plans to strike an alliance with the National Party or like-minded organisations, the Inkatha Freedom Party guest list and the welcome accorded its guests seemed to indicate that such an alliance was easily possible."

Guests included the government, the Democratic Party, the hardline Conservative Party, the governments of Bophuthatswana, Ciskei, QwaQwa and KwaNdebele. There were no guests from the ANC, the Pan Africanist Congress, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the Communist Party, or the government of Transkei.



Peace seekers: President Mubarak, right, greeting Yitzhak Rabin in Cairo yesterday, the first meeting between an Egyptian and Israeli leader for six years, before talks on a Middle East settlement. Mr Mubarak has accepted Mr Rabin's invitation to visit Israel

## Delhi will use force in temple feud

FROM RAJU GOPALAKRISHNAN IN DELHI

INDIA'S government threatened yesterday to use force to evict Hindu fundamentalists building a grand temple beside an ancient Muslim shrine in Ayodhya.

The latest escalation in the dispute in the Hindu pilgrimage town in northern Uttar Pradesh state could lead to widespread religious strife. At least 2,000 people have been killed over the controversy in the past three years.

Court orders to halt construction have failed to stop thousands of Hindu holy men and devotees building a platform next to the ruins of the 16th-century mosque. "We will clear the area of devotees now engaged in building the temple, if the state government refuses to honour its constitutional obligations," S. B. Chavan, the home minister, told parliament.

The Uttar Pradesh government, ruled by the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party, says it will not use force to drive people from the site. The federal government previously has been wary about using force, fearing an outburst of rage in the predominantly Hindu country.

Political analysts said Delhi would delay action until the Supreme Court ruled today on a petition seeking contempt of court proceedings against the state government for ignoring orders to halt the building. "The Supreme Court is the only institution left between normalcy and anarchy," said Gobinda Mukhoty, an attorney, arguing in favour of enjoining the state government.

If the court accepts the petition, it might encourage Delhi to dismiss the state government for not heeding judicial orders, analysts said. The federal government could then take steps to clear the site. But any forced removal of the Hindu hardliners could lead to political turmoil. (Reuters)

## Peking and Patten swap warnings over airport

BY DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

IN THE growing argument over Hong Kong's new airport, China has cast a fresh shadow over Chris Patten's first weeks as governor of the colony.

Jiang Zemin, the Chinese Communist Party leader, warned Britain not to treat the Chinese as fools. *Ta Kung Pao*, a pro-China Hong Kong newspaper reported, in a new round of criticism of the amount of money being spent on the project. "Don't just care for your own benefits and don't play tricks. Both sides should stick to the memorandum of understanding," he was quoted as saying.

The theme was taken up by Chen Zuoren, a senior official with the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office. "We cannot spend money lavishly which the Hong Kong people have accumulated over so many years, turning the new airport project into a tiger's mouth to swallow the wealth of the Hong Kong people," he said, amplifying the Chinese government's concerns that the cost of the airport will leave too little in reserve after China takes control of Hong Kong's affairs in 1997. The airport is being built on the outlying island of Chek Lap Kok and requires an expensive road and rail link to Kowloon.

In an attempt to mollify Chinese opinion, Sir David Ford, the colony's chief secretary, recently took the unprecedented step of announcing the total of Hong Kong's reserves, which had been a closely guarded secret for decades. But the \$3.2 billion (£1.67 billion) figure apparently did not impress Peking. "Britain has no right to say it is leaving [the reserves] to the future Hong Kong government as if it were charity," Mr Chen said.

Mr Patten, in marked contrast to the style of Sir David Wilson, his predecessor, is taking a more robust line in the airport dispute. Before Mr Jiang's statement was published, he had already insisted that the airport would be built despite differences of view. "I neither feel nor, I think, look like a bully and I would very much like to avoid any... ritual exchanges on an issue we all want to see resolved as soon as possible," he said. He dismissed attacks against Mr Ford for going public over the negotiations, saying that China was playing the same game.

"I recall that on July 6 a senior and distinguished official in Beijing [Peking] set out in terms what the latest proposal put by the People's Republic of China on the airport amounted to. That was done publicly," he said.

Both sides have agreed in principle that the airport is needed to boost confidence after the Chinese government's bloody 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy

demonstrators in Tiananmen Square and more so given the doubt over Hong Kong's continuing prosperity.

Cheng Kai-nam, a member of the newly formed pro-China Democratic Alliance for Betterment of Hong Kong, told *Ta Kung Pao* that Mr Jiang, in a meeting with him, accused Britain of breaching the 1991 agreement. "As it's a memorandum, how come it is not memorised? Don't think others are most foolish and you are most clever! Don't treat us as like fools!" he quoted Mr Jiang as saying.

He denied that China was using the airport funding issue as a bargaining chip to block any moves towards democracy. "We haven't made such an attempt. We aim at preventing the funding of the airport from turning into a huge burden," he was quoted as saying.

## Top Chinese aide jailed for protests

FROM CHRIS BILLING IN PEKING

A SENIOR aide to Zhao Ziyang, the deposed Chinese Communist party general secretary, was sentenced to seven years in prison yesterday for crimes linked to the ill-fated Tiananmen Square democracy movement in 1989.

Bao Tong was the highest-ranking Chinese figure to stand trial in connection with the student-led protest movement. His conviction is expected to be the last important one to come out of the movement.

Bao, 59, was convicted on the dual charges of divulging state secrets and counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement, said Zhao Ziyang, an official at the Peking intermediate people's court, where the trial was held. He will receive credit for the

three years he has already served, the court official said. Bao was accused of leading to student protest leaders information about plans by the Communist party to impose martial law in Peking and halt the protest. Dozens of police surrounded the court in western Peking where the closed-door trial was held. Even Bao's wife and daughter were barred from all but the ten-minute sentencing.

Though others involved in the 1989 movement received heavier sentences, Bao's family expressed outrage after the verdict was given. "It's not a question of severity or leniency. He was not guilty," said a man who identified himself as Bao's brother but declined to give his name.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iran expels UK envoy for spying

Nicosia: Iran has ordered the third secretary at the British embassy in Tehran to leave the country within a month because of actions "violating diplomatic norms", the Iranian news agency, Irna, said yesterday.

Irna quoted an "informed source" at the Iranian foreign ministry for the expulsion of Geoffrey Brammer, but did not say when he was ordered out or specify his alleged offence.

A Foreign Office spokesman said that Britain had protested over the detention of Mr Brammer by security officials in Tehran for several hours on June 17. He said Mr Brammer was arrested after a game of squash with an Iranian pilot. It was alleged he had formed the friendship to spy on Iran. (Reuters)

### Briton charged

Port of Spain: Two Britons, named as David Allen Simmons, 50, and his daughter, Shanti, and a Grenada national were charged with illegal possession of firearms and drugs worth £1.5 million. Trinidad police said. (Reuters)

### Syria accused

London: Despite the well-publicised release of 2,000 prisoners, thousands of political prisoners remain in jail in Syria, according to Amnesty International. Since then hundreds more political suspects have been arrested.

### Lima bombed

Lima: A car bomb wrecked a research institute run by a former adviser to President Fujimori of Peru, killing three people. It happened just 500 yards from where a car bomb killed more than 20 people last week. (Reuters)

### Muslims killed

Colombo: Sri Lankan Tamil rebels held up a train in the eastern district of Batticaloa, killing ten passengers and wounding five seriously. Most of them were Muslims, according to a military spokesman. (Reuters)

### Arab execution

Abu Dhabi: Two United Arab Emirates nationals are to be executed by firing squad after being found guilty of raping three Indian women and causing the death of one of their victims, aged 13, and her grandmother. (AFP)

### Tourist dies

Nairobi: Beatrice Ham, a British tourist, died from burns she suffered when a hot-air balloon used to view wild animals caught fire and crashed in Kenya's Masai Mara game reserve, hospital sources said. (Reuters)

### Wed lock

Arc-en-Barrois, France: Bowing to pressure from some parishioners, the Bishop of Langres, eastern France, has banned mock wedding ceremonies for honeymooning Japanese tourists in the local church. (AFP)

## Vinegar and love diet adds sauce to Japan's polls

FROM JOANNA PYTMAN IN TOKYO

WHILE some might say that the silly season never ends in the world of Japanese politics, yesterday marked the official start of play for the legions of loopy parties when national newspapers published the manifestos of the 38 contesting Sunday's national election to the upper house of the Diet.

Many Japanese have dismissed the election as a contest of old men, old insults and threadbare promises to clean up Japan's infamously venal politics. Voter turnout is expected to be as low as 50 per cent and everyone knows that the ruling Liberal Democratic party will remain in power, as it has for the past 36 years. The appearance, therefore, of a clutch of dotty eccentricities offers the long-suffering electorate a refreshing diversion.

Women may have expressed solidarity with Takako Doi, the first woman to lead a main party, the Social Democratic party, in the past, but the housewives' choice this year is the dashing Yoshio Nakamatsu, founder of the Invention party, who

claims to have invented the very useful floppy disc as well as the rather less handy "bouncing shoes". Seen careering round Tokyo propelled by a pair of giant springs attached to his feet and waving a magic wand, Mr Nakamatsu promises, with a straight face, to invent a "happy and romantic new world for Japanese women".

A bold and saucy new party called the Japan Hope party is running on a platform that seems to call simply for more sex. "Let's live our lives according to our natural rhythms," proclaims its heart-spattered poster and its members are reportedly having a roistering good time spreading the word on the campaign trail.

But the object of smart money is the Kaze no Kai, a party of ultra-nationalists with considerable financial and underworld muscle who have a forthright desire to

"denounce Japan's grovelling foreign policy and to abolish its wacky-wacky politics". Represented by populist comedians and light entertain-



Doi: no longer first choice among housewives

ment celebrities in the Terry Wogan mould, the Kaze no Kai, which translates as "the Windy party", is expected to make a strong showing.

Stronger, at least, than the rather sad and earnest Small and Medium-Sized Companies Party, which would like to represent the hopes of harried and underpaid salarymen. The S&M Companies Party has adopted, without any obvious explanation, a boiled egg as its logo and exists to spread the unusual message that "Japan needs its small and medium-sized companies more than it thinks".

A serious shortage of charisma and compelling issues has rendered mainstream party election politics more than usually tedious, but the minor parties are getting more than expected attention. "I am not taking the election too seriously, but if I vote it will be a toss-up between the Invention party and the Japan Hope party. It is just a bit of fun really," said Naoko Shima, a young Tokyo housewife.



# Maastricht referendum casts pall over French sun-seekers



Chirac weak support for a yes vote

VISITORS to French beaches and campsites this summer are being urged to avoid being accosted by earnest young men and women clutching sheaves of brochures.

Failure to do so will lead to a quiz on France's topic of holiday homework: the treaty of Maastricht. From the ice-cream stands of the Côte d'Azur to the villages of Flanders, busloads of young canvassers are being dispatched by both sides to warn holiday-makers that the wrong vote on September 20 will mean the end, if not of life on earth, at least of France as they know it.

President Mitterrand's gamble for a yes vote has spoiled the summer for everyone, Charles Bremner writes from Paris. It is a ruse that could cost him his job

political scene and given a dose of the willies to European neighbours. These believe it just possible that voters could ignore the advice of the main party leaders and vote no as an act of rejection of M. Mitterrand, his third Socialist administration, Paris and everything from new driving licences to politicians as a whole. For the moment at least, the polls show a majority voting in favour.

M. Mitterrand, who has cut his holiday to a week and ordered ministers to follow suit, set the government tone with an apocalyptic warning on Bastille day about the consequences of a no. Europe,

he said, would be finished along with everything France had worked for since the second world war. Maastricht means peace, he said, leaving no doubt that jackboots would be on the march again pretty soon after a no. At the other extreme are the Communist party of Georges Marchais and the National Front of Jean-Marie Le Pen, strange bedfellows who both see Maastricht as the undoing of France. For M. Marchais, who is embarking on the first trip by a French communist leader to the United States, Maastricht hands over the country to foreign business monopolies. M. Marchais' Breshnevite

party must be the last on earth to conjure up the demon of top-hatted capitalists. For M. Le Pen, who is leading a characteristically nuanced crusade against "Euro-federalists", Maastricht effectively means handing over the country to barbarians and then, by implication, to North Africans.

It is of course among the mainstream opposition led by the duelling "elephants", Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and Jacques Chirac, that M. Mitterrand's play has wrought the greatest political havoc. M. Giscard, angling for a job as prime minister after next March's elections and eventually a return to the presidency, is leading his UDF troops under the less than gripping slogan: "Yes, in spite of socialism."

The polls are bearing this out. After a brief blip for the better following M. Mitterrand's Sarajevo outing, M.

Mitterrand and his Socialists have fallen victim to the lorry drivers and a resurgence of scandal around the party's financial affairs brought on by the indictment of Henri Emmanuelli, the parliamentary speaker. For weeks now, Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister, has been trying to sweeten the path to a yes by dropping unpopular plans and appeasing the angry tribes. In his latest move, on Monday, M. Bérégovoy announced a generous four-year plan to soften the misery of the farmers as the largesse of the common agricultural policy is cut back. In an illustration of the citizens' revolt, the mainstream farmers' union thanked the prime minister profusely while the militant peasants' organisation dismissed his scheme as "ridiculous and insignificant".

Among the Gaullists, M. Chirac has now come out with

weak support for a yes while a clutch of dissident barons in his RPR party are campaigning hard against the treaty. Philippe Séguin and Charles Pasqua laid down their logic on Monday, proclaiming Maastricht to be "the birth of a superstate that escapes from all democratic control, the dilution of French nationality in a vague citizenship that will be the prelude to upheaval". This vision of French blood and political power sullied by untrammelled immigration is the most powerful weapon wielded by the treaty's opponents. Against all the Götterdämmerung talk around France's historic vote, the Generation Ecology party yesterday launched a drive to win the hearts of the young and the hip under the unlikely proposition that Europe could be fun and sexy.

Letters, page 13



Giscard angling for the prime ministership

## Sicilians clash with police after being barred from funeral

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN PALERMO

A STATE funeral in Palermo yesterday for the five police bodyguards killed with Paolo Borsellino, the anti-Mafia judge, by a huge car bomb on Sunday, was marred by clashes between security forces and ordinary Sicilians.

Hundreds of people outraged at being kept out of the service scuffled with police and carabinieri outside the basilica of San Domenico. Palermo's cathedral, where at least a thousand police and soldiers were deployed. Demonstrators screaming "politicians come outside", "assassins" and "we want to cry for our dead" burst through police lines into the square in front of the cathedral, shaking clenched fists.

The service was boycotted by Signor Borsellino's family. President Scalfaro and Giuliano Amato, the prime minister, attended the funeral, presided over by Cardinal Salvatore Pappalardo, the Archbishop of Palermo, but arrived half an hour after the

Mass started when police finally managed to clear a corridor through the irate crowd.

Some police officers mobbed the two leaders as they were hustled out of the church at the end of the service. The officers apparently were angry because the people outside had not been allowed to attend the Mass.

Only hours before the funeral began, seven of Palermo's 16 deputy prosecutors resigned en masse over the conduct of the fight against the Mafia. The collective protest dealt a further slap in the face to the authorities.

One of them, Judge Vittorio Teresi, said it was no longer worth fighting the Mafia through the courts. "One risks death without obtaining any satisfaction from the courts," Speaking on state television, he called for the immediate resignation of Vincenzo Parisi, the police commissioner, Nicola Mancino, the interior minister, the civil governor of

Palermo and the city's police chief — the four men being blamed for failing to ensure Signor Borsellino's safety. Aldo Rizzo, the mayor of Palermo, also resigned yesterday, saying he was acting out of solidarity with the judges and police.

During the service for the police officers, Cardinal Pappalardo lashed out at the mafiosi, who he called "shepherds of Satan", and praised Signor Borsellino for his "faith and courage". The congregation burst into applause when a sister of the woman police officer who was killed in the attack read a tribute to her.

Signora Mancino and Claudio Martelli, the justice minister, were conspicuous by their absence. An official statement said the ministers were obliged to stay in Rome to attend a parliamentary session examining anti-terrorist legislation. But political experts said the ministers feared their presence at the funeral would have been seen as a provocation by Sicilians frustrated by the latest Mafia outrage, and could have led to disorder similar to the protests against politicians during the funeral of the leading anti-Mafia judge Giovanni Falcone in May. Falcone, his wife and three bodyguards were killed when the Mafia detonated a huge bomb under the motorway linking Palermo to the city airport.

Sicilian magistrates held an alternative ceremony yesterday for Signor Borsellino in his parish church to pay tribute to him. They snubbed the state's funeral for not providing him, as they see it, with sufficient protection. Signor Borsellino's family announced on Monday that they would hold a private funeral for the judge.

In Rome, the cabinet decided to strengthen an anti-Mafia decree announced last month to allow police to search Mafia strongholds without warrant and to provide for special trials for Mafia suspects with less stringent evidence requirements. The decree will also allow greater reduction of sentences for mafiosi who had become "supergrass".

On Monday, 55 leading members of the Mafia, many of them kingspins of the Sicilian underworld, were flown by military aircraft from Palermo's high security Ucciardone prison to the remote penal island of Pianosa, off the coast of Tuscany.

Leading article, page 13



Sorrowing touch: relatives and friends of a police officer killed by a Mafia car bomb follow the coffin to the funeral in Palermo yesterday

## Media lay odds on next Mafia target

Favourites for the killers' hit list are an anti-Mafia party's leader and a crusading judge. John Phillips writes from Palermo

Sicilian journalists trying to keep up their spirits played a macabre game this week, placing bets among themselves who will be the Mafia's next "illustrious cadaver".

The "favourite" at the moment appears to be Leoluca Orlando, the courageous leader of the new anti-Mafia Rete (Network) party, which is leading a popular revolt against the Cosa Nostra killers on the island. Signor Orlando, a former mayor of Palermo who broke with the Christian Democrat party because of its past links with the Mafia, received several telephoned death threats after the murder on Sunday of Judge Paolo Borsellino, the anti-Mafia campaigner. Signor Orlando lives in a fortified police barracks and made his first public appearance in Sicily for several weeks in the early hours of yesterday during a street protest organised by his followers.

Many other well-informed Sicilian journalists, however, believe the Mafia gunmen's next target will not be a Sicilian at all but a Milanese. He is Judge Antonio Di Pietro, the magistrate who has rocked the political establishment by exposing the system of bribery and corruption organised in Milan by mainstream political parties, notably the Socialists and Christian Democrats, who distributed public works contracts in return for kick-backs from businesses big and small.

Judicial sources say "Operation Clean Hands", the Di Pietro investigation, has led to the arrest of some 60 politicians and businessmen. "Operation Clean Hands" is parallel to similar enquiries that Sicilian magistrates have tried to carry out in Palermo only to be blocked by their superiors. Many Sicilians believe Signor Borsellino recently had sought to revive the investigation of these connections, following up clues pointing to Rome politicians hitherto considered beyond suspicion.

Alberto di Pisa, another

crusading Sicilian magistrate, was accused of writing threatening anonymous letters to his colleagues and transferred after he sought to investigate possible corruption in the Corte dei Conti, the watchdog judicial body meant to prevent graft in the awarding of public contracts.

Signor Borsellino and Giovanni Falcone, his colleague who was killed on May 23, are the latest in a long series of judges murdered by the Mafia in Sicily over the past 20 years. But the elimination of two such important investigators within two months is without precedent.

Sicilian crime reporters believe the governing body of Cosa Nostra, the so-called *capula* (dome), were able to sentence the judges to death only after the assassination of Salvatore Lima, the Christian Democrat European parliament member and the most powerful politician in Sicily at the start of the Italian general election campaign in March.

For decades Signor Lima had organised electoral support on the island for Giulio Andreotti, the former prime minister. Criminologists have speculated that the murder of Signor Lima was a vendetta killing, ordered after Signor Andreotti's government earlier this year initiated measures to co-ordinate the battle against the Mafia at national level by creating the post of "super-prosecutor" with 26 special regional assistants. Falcone had been expected to take up this job. After his murder Signor Borsellino was next in line for the appointment.

Few Sicilians believe the new anti-Mafia decree reinforced by the government of Giuliano Amato, the new prime minister, yesterday will deal a death blow to organised crime unless the links between politicians and the Mafia are broken and the Mafia leaders who have been on the run for decades — although their whereabouts are known — are rounded up.

## Britain blots EC copybook

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

IN THE short time Britain has held the presidency of the European Community's council of ministers, it has gambled away its credibility as an honest broker by using the position to further its interests, according to Thomas Gack, experienced Brussels correspondent of the *Stuttgarter Zeitung*, writing after Monday's foreign affairs council.

"Instead of employing the famous British virtue of 'fair play' and keeping a polite distance, instead of juggling with the ball, they are kicking their own ball crudely to the front — and scoring an own goal with it," he wrote in yesterday's paper. "What a German diplomat in Brussels politely described as 'over-zealous', other partners see as a tough and brazen policy of self-interest."

The 80 questions tabled at last week's finance council meeting by Norman Lamont had only one aim, he wrote, "to nip in the bud the EC Commission's proposals to increase the EC's resources, which London has blocked for a long time."

## UN persuades Croatia to let in 4,000 Bosnian refugees

FROM TIM JUDAH IN ZAGREB

MATTRESSES, blankets and emergency food rations were being rushed to the Croatian town of Karlovac yesterday, as preparations were made to receive some 4,000 Bosnians in flight from their home town of Bosanski Novi, under pressure from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Croatian authorities, who had refused to let in the refugees, relented on condition that the UN finds them other countries to go to.

Bosanski Novi's Muslim refugees have been wandering for several days as they are surrounded by hostile Serb-held territory. Before the war they made up 28 per cent of their town's population, but as the area is being "ethnically cleansed" they have been served notice to leave. According to Peter Kessler, the UNHCR spokesman, "the Serbs have given them the message to go. The town's two mosques have been destroyed and notices have gone up saying 'Muslims get out! They are leaving out of fear.'"

While Serbs have been most associated with the policy of "ethnic cleansing", a euphemism for mass expulsions, Croats and Muslims have

been accused by Serbs of indulging in the same evil. A small group of Bosnian Serbs who have reached Serb-held territory near Sarajevo claim that a Croat extremist militia, always known by its initials HOS, and Muslim "green berets" attacked their village of Bradina, 24 miles southwest of the Bosnian capital last week. "They killed more than 100 civilians," said one survivor.

They rounded up 300 other men, all those between 14 and 80. They took away all the women and children to their camps. We escaped because we ran away."

All sides allege that "concentration camps" have been set up for civilians. While there is no hard evidence, the testimonies of increasing numbers of

refugees suggest that the most nightmarish tales of mass murder and cruelty are yet to be told. Walker Hoffman, a UN field officer, said: "From what I have heard from the refugees, they just round up hundreds and thousands of people and put them in a football stadium or field... I believe it."

Meanwhile, continuing fighting around Serbian-besieged Sarajevo meant that the UN-controlled airport remained closed for the second day running. Early in the day six relief flights took advantage of a lull in the fighting and President Izetbegovic managed to fly out.

Mr Izetbegovic came to Zagreb for talks with President Tudjman of Croatia. Over the past two months both presidents have announced various military alliances or confederations between the two countries, only to promptly deny such things later. Asked about a military pact, President Izetbegovic said yesterday that, while the states co-operated on a practical level, "this has not been formalised".

UN dispute, page 1

## Black Sea ship bolts for Odessa

Kiev: The battle for control of the former Soviet Black Sea fleet reached dangerous levels yesterday after one of the fleet's escort warships hoisted the Ukrainian ensign and bolted. Tass said the vessel was heading for the Ukrainian port of Odessa, pursued by a missile patrol boat with an assault crew on board ready to take it back by force. (Robert Seely writes.)

Other military vessels and aircraft were also reported to be tailing the ship, raising the possibility of a clash between the increasingly hostile pro-Russian and pro-Ukrainian elements of the fleet.

## Leader chosen

Vilnius: The Lithuanian parliament nominated Alexander Abisala, 37, to replace Gediminas Ignoravičius as prime minister. Parliament dismissed Mr Ignoravičius in an overwhelming no-confidence vote last week. (Reuters)

## Curtain raiser

Rome: Germany has agreed that the 1,040-mile corridor where the Iron Curtain used to divide the country should be sold to raise funds for unification. Naturalists want the area kept as a wildlife reserve.

## Coup blame

Moscow: Anatoli Lukyanov, awaiting trial over the Kremlin coup, has blamed Mikhail Gorbachev. "The organisers informed the president in advance and he took not a single step to block it." (Reuters)

## Plane crashes

Washington: A V22 Osprey military aircraft crashed into the Potomac river, south of Washington. All seven people on board were presumed dead, a spokesman for the US Marine Corps said. (Reuters)

## Clashes kill 18

Moscow: At least 18 people have died in ethnic fighting on the southern edge of the former Soviet Union, with clashes reported in Nagorno-Karabakh, Georgia and Moldova, news agencies said. (Reuters)

## US tobacco giants stalk Poland's smoking classes

FROM PATRICIA KOZA IN WARSAW

POLISH legislators, alarmed at new figures showing that their country has the highest tobacco-related death rate in Europe, are fighting back against a multi-million-pound marketing campaign by the world's giant tobacco firms.

Legislation has been introduced in both houses of parliament to severely restrict production and advertising within Poland by tobacco companies tapping a voracious market. "Smoking is the biggest single health danger to the Polish population," said deputy Piotr Krutul, arguing for strict state control of tobacco products. The peoples of Central and East-

ern Europe are among the world's heaviest smokers. In Poland, about 40 per cent of adults smoke.

A British study in May revealed that by 1995, of all adult Polish males who die between the ages of 35 and 69, 51 per cent will succumb to tobacco-related diseases. Most of the other East and Central European countries listed percentages in the forties of tobacco-related deaths, higher than anywhere in Europe except for Ireland.

Foreign tobacco firms, led by American giants R.J. Reynolds and Philip Morris, are engaged in takeovers, joint ventures and advertising and promotion campaigns in Eastern Europe. The market is so lucrative that for a time, RJR in Poland found that the

biggest competitor for its own Camels was Camels smuggled in. "Poland is a very big potential market," said Piotr Piwkowski, the general manager of R.J. Reynolds Poland, which last month broke ground for a \$33 million (£17 million) factory outside Warsaw.

Smart new newspaper kiosks and bus stops, painted in the red-and-white Marlboro colours with prominent cigarette advertising, have sprouted throughout central Warsaw. Caught off guard, RJR counter-attacked with a fleet of taxis in Camel gold — their doors displaying the familiar symbol first seen in Poland before the second world war.

In Prague, umbrellas advertising tobacco products shade outdoor cafes along

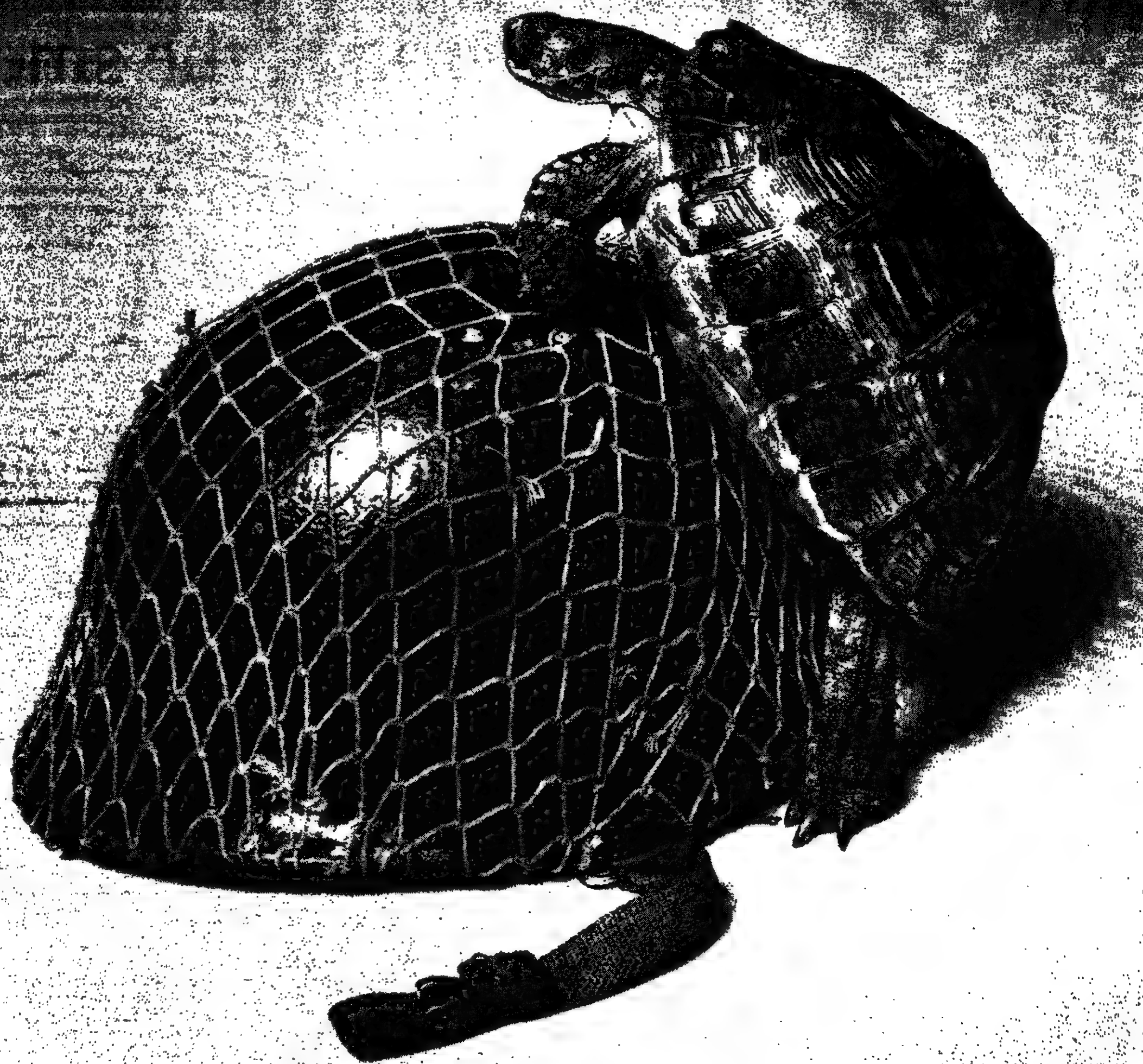
winding cobblestone streets, and decals in shop windows advertise sweepstakes and other promotions. "All the bigger cities are flooded with American tobacco products," said Dr Jerzy Lewandowicz, a cardiologist from the central Polish city of Lodz. "American cigarettes have fine packages. They're colourful and attractive. It's a kind of fashion."

The fledgling anti-tobacco lobby has seized on the promotional blitz and the British stand as a call to arms. Dr Stanislaw Leczynski, who represents Polish doctors on the smoking issue, complains that neither the cash-strapped government nor the anti-tobacco group can handle the promotional onslaught. "US tobacco com-

panies are doing everything they can here to sell their products — advertising, sponsoring sports and cultural events, even targeting children," he charged.

The tobacco companies disagree, saying they only seek to persuade confirmed smokers to switch to their brand. RJR advertising in Poland does not use "Joe Camel", the hip, sunglasses-sporting cartoon figure that has been found to attract children in America. Philip Morris says the sports events it sponsors in Poland only carry the corporate name, not Marlboro. Both firms are ready to live with a ban on media advertising, apparently confident their products will find favour over local brands that sell for half the price.





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# Games of life and death

Has the Olympic ideal grown too big for its boots, asks Bryan Appleyard

The Olympic Gold computer game on the Sega Mega-drive system has been issued to celebrate the Barcelona Olympics. As well as providing simulations of a number of sports, it offers the option of running the entire pompous ritual. You can have an opening ceremony complete with Olympic flame, flight of doves and a closing ceremony with fireworks. If you win a medal it plays the national anthem.

The point is, of course, that Olympic swimming or running are essentially different from ordinary swimming or running. They are better, finer, greater. Consider what these rituals simulated by Sega mean: the flame is a quasi-religious emblem of immortality; the doves are a biblical symbol of world peace and the national anthem is an assertion of local loyalty in the midst of this global carnival. The whole program signals the startling success

able to both Christian and Muslim, because at its heart lies the uncontroversial and unarguable notion of physical excellence. At Barcelona, however, there is controversy, not about the nature of this sanctuary, but about who is its keeper. At least half the money came from the Spanish government, yet the extraordinary Catalan nationalist president, Jordi Pujol, is going to great lengths to insist that these are the Catalan Games. His campaign describes Catalonia as "a country in Spain with its own culture, language and identity". It is Catalonia, not Spain, that has "won" these Games for its capital. The European central government — intent upon presenting the Spain as a big, unified, modern economy — is naturally incensed.

What Pujol has seen is that modern nationalism must express itself as internationalism. Mere anti-Madrid factionalism is not

Desecrating the holiness of the Olympic Games is a sure way of shocking people into paying attention

enough, because that would appear as no more than a troublesome local quarrel. What is required is a virile assertion that one is fully a nation, entitled to a turn at celebrating the sporting brotherhood of man.

It is in its way, a vindication of Baron de Coubertin. Hellenistic virtue has proved hugely persuasive as an international ideal. So persuasive that everybody wants to exploit the particular reality. At one level this results in sponsoring companies spending huge sums to acquire virtuous favour for their fizzy drinks or running shoes. In this context, Catalan nationalism may be said to be playing the same game as Coca-Cola.

But the other sign of the holiness of the Olympics is that desecrating the shrine is a sure way of shocking people into paying attention. There was irony behind the Russian boycott of the games in Los Angeles in 1984, the American boycott of the Moscow Olympics in 1980 and even the Palestinian killing of Israeli athletes in 1972. The irony was that these acts demonstrated not that sport is a trivial matter next to macropolitical issues, but that Olympic sport is overwhelmingly important. So many people take it so seriously that to imply that something else is more serious is a kind of almost unbelievable radicalism.

The Olympics, like those "Teach the World to Sing" Coca-Cola ads, are now a kind of liberal, pluralist, multi-lingual prayer. Their amateurism, the supposedly harmless innocence of sporting competition, and all the paraphernalia of doves and flames are secular invocations based on an absolute ideal of physical achievement which is meant to transcend the relativities of politics and commerce. It doesn't work, of course, and the sport itself is almost always uniformly boring. But, somehow, even on the Sega Mega-drive, there is an odd, distant poignancy about the flame and the flock of doves.



...and moreover  
**ALAN COREN**

If you read this, you will be helping to celebrate one of the major triumphs of my life. For I have no idea whether or not it will be printed. All I can do is write and pray.

This uncertainty has, for once, nothing to do with the Editor or his printer, but everything to do with me and mine. Indeed, and again for once, if I print it, the Editor will have little option but to follow suit, irrespective of its contents, because he will have no other contents to put in its place: should this get to *The Times* at all, it will get there very late. Even as I write, whey-faced subs will be pacing the Wapping after-deck, pointing their telescopes towards Cricklewood, tugging the half-hunters from their telephoto waistscoats every two minutes, and making pointless telephone calls to an instrument which has been unhooked for that very reason.

Are there, I wonder, vintage computer rallies? Do cheery fanatics foregather in rural venues to stroll the serried ranks of one another's gleaming old hardware, jabbering in fluent Shillbottle, swapping otherwise unobtainable parts, or at least the names of little men round the corners who can cobble such vital restorative gubbins from nothing more than old Meccano set and a saucer of spit?

Do not tell me there are, because the news will come a day too late. It was yesterday that I needed them, when, just before noon, my old computer went down and the terminal bubbles rose pitifully on the

embracing current. She was a sturdy old tub, the Apple Macintosh 512K, a simple VDU, a simple keyboard, a simple printer, and a little mouse which ran around my desk earning my living. When I bought her in 1984, I didn't know why a little box with a mobile marble under it was called a mouse, and I don't know now, because the only thing I have learned about computers is not to try to learn about them, since there is no question I can ask which results in a comprehensible answer. Worse, what seems to be involved is a sort of exponentially negative learning process whereby any one thing I try to find out requires two more things to be found out first.

But when the old tub went to the friz yesterday, I knew it was bad, and when I rang my Apple agent for advice, he said buy a new tub, so I ran round to the old tub, so I ran round to his place and emptied my overdraft into his palm and ran home again with a lot of big boxes, not stopping to ask any questions because (a) I had a piece to write for you about cabinet ministers, and (b) I would not have understood any of the answers. It was only when I opened the boxes that I found myself with the biggest question of all, which was why is my new tub not like my old tub? Why is even the mouse different, more wee, more sleeky, why is the printer not like my trusty old mechanical job, but a bubble-jet item called a StyleWriter with four floppy discs of its own to feed

On June 4, 1990, Alison Halford began proceedings in the industrial tribunal, alleging that the chief constable of Merseyside, the Home Secretary, Northamptonshire Police Authority and the Inspector of Constabulary had all discriminated against her because of her sex by repeatedly refusing to promote her to the post of deputy chief constable. Two years and more than £1 million of costs later, the proceedings have been settled by agreeing to accept Miss Halford's application for early retirement from the end of next month on a pension of £35,836, including a lump sum of £142,600, and the dropping of disciplinary proceedings against her.

Given the gravity of the allegations made by Miss Halford, the defendants might well echo the words of Bertie Wooster after he was fined £5 by a magistrate for helping a friend to steal a policeman's helmet: "I was dashed glad to get the thing settled at such a reasonable figure."

Much of the 39 days of evidence provided an entertaining insight into the lives of senior officers on Merseyside. The tribunal was asked to consider the implications of "liquidations" dinners at which

## Tribunals don't work

an assistant chief constable may have eaten his potatoes with his fingers, while Miss Halford asked the wife of a senior officer, "What's a nice lady like you doing with a man like him?"

*Dixon of Dock Green* was never like this. It presented as drama to the viewers of *The Bill*, the life and times of Alison Halford would have been dismissed as a wholly implausible way to run a police force. Whether or not there was sex discrimination, some senior police officers plainly need lessons in management of human resources.

The Halford case shows that reform of discrimination law is urgently required. Lord Justice Lawton explained in the Court of Appeal in 1978 that "Parliament intended that industrial tribunals should provide a quick and cheap remedy for what it had decided were injustices in the employment sphere. The procedure was to be such that employers and employees could present their cases without having to go to lawyers for help. Within a few years

legislation has started to take over." Recent studies show that delays in industrial tribunal hearings are increasing as cases become more complex and more numerous. The employment minister, Michael Forsyth, told the House of Commons last month that the average time taken for a case to reach the employment appeal tribunal after the decision of the industrial tribunal is a wholly unacceptable two years.

There are severe burdens on a complainant bringing a discrimination case. Unless she has the financial backing of her trade union or the Equal Opportunities Commission (a large part of whose legal budget has been spent on the Halford case), litigation may be impossible. Legal aid is not available. If the employee eventually wins her case, the maximum compensation she can be awarded is £10,000. The tribunal has no power to award interest payable on the long wait before a case is heard, nor has it the power to require the employer to

appoint or promote a woman who proves her case.

If the law wishes to encourage employers to comply with the duty not to discriminate, it must remove the upper limit on compensation and confer increased powers to award exemplary damages. Employers in America take the anti-discrimination law seriously, because they know that if they do not meet their obligations, penal damages awards can have a serious impact on their financial viability. By contrast, many employers in this country ignore the law unless a claim is brought against them, and then they have little incentive to settle cases speedily.

Improvements in tribunal procedure are essential. Earlier this year the London North Industrial Tribunals tried an experiment involving the exchange of witness statements by the parties before the hearing. Witnesses were cross-examined on only those parts of the statements considered controversial. The scheme was not a

success. It proved time-consuming for administrative staff and threatened to impose additional costs on the parties in cases which might be settled without proceeding to a hearing. Nevertheless, in many cases, when both sides are legally represented, such a procedure should be compulsory.

Tribunals should insist that leading cases such as Miss Halford's are heard within months, not years. Regional chairmen and the Employment Appeal Tribunal should ensure that delays are not tolerated. In important cases, the tribunal should have power to transfer the proceedings to a High Court judge, who should have the power to prepare for a hearing within a very short time.

Unless the procedure for dealing with sex discrimination cases is amended, women considering bringing such claims will be deterred by the experience of Alison Halford. The Home Secretary should institute an immediate enquiry into why a case involving police authorities has done such damage to the rule of law.

The author is a barrister and a fellow of All Souls, Oxford.

Anthony Howard on the shady dealings between politicians and newspapers

## Secret world of the smear

Smears and dirty tricks are supposed to be inseparable from the political process. There may be countries where that is true, but Britain at first sight does not appear to be one of them. On this side of the Atlantic at least, the kind of assassination job that the Bush campaign did on Governor Dukakis in 1988 is out of the question — for the simple and wholesome reason that British electoral law has not so far permitted political advertisements on television.

Whatever efforts are made to discredit political opponents are far more likely to come in the form of winks and nudges. In that sense, if a prominent member of the cabinet did approach *The Sun* at the time of the last election with the names and addresses of three women alleged to have had affairs with Paddy Ashdown, he (and it must have been a male, since there were no women members of the cabinet at the time) was only acting in accordance with a fine old British tradition. In this country it has always been the custom for politicians to offer the tip and then leave it to the newspapers to make the running.

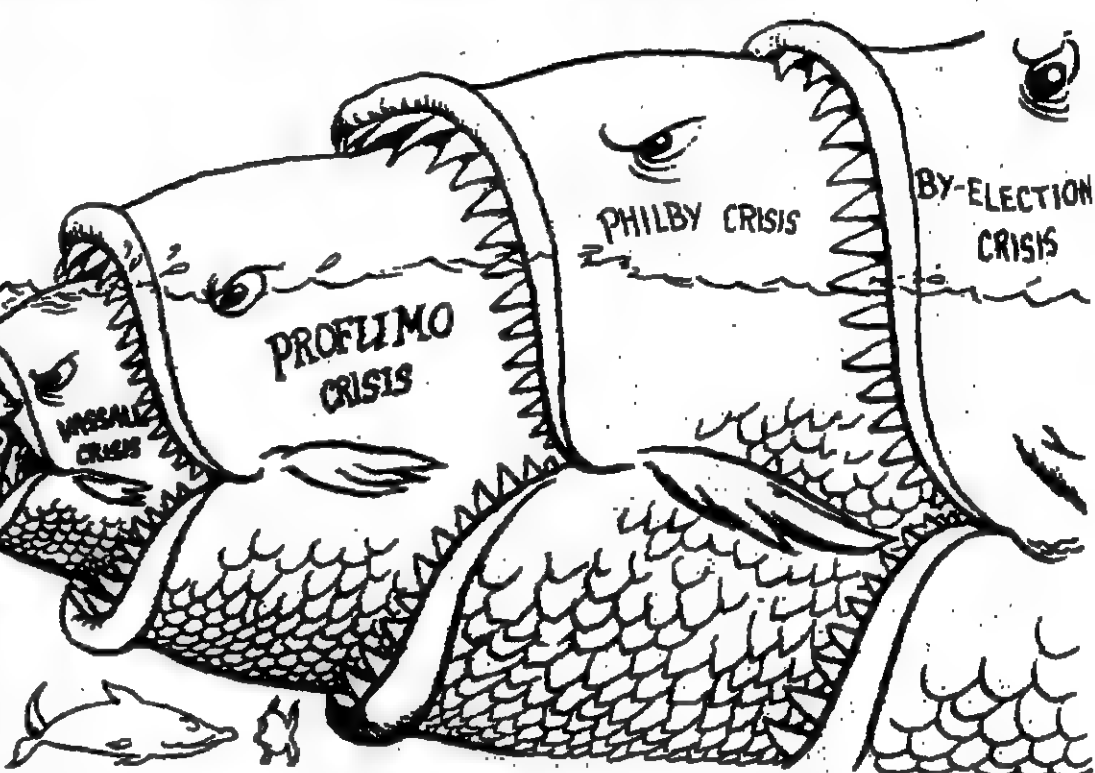
It was because Lord Hailsham (or Quintin Hogg as he then was) breached that tradition that he landed in such trouble in 1964. During an election speech in Dulwich, he rounded on a heckler with the remark: "If you can tell me there are no adulterers on the front bench of the Labour party, you can talk to me about Profumo." Immediately the fat was in the fire, for in making an accusation directly and in the open, the then minister for education and science had broken all the rules. His punishment was not slow in coming. In a classic political putdown, Lord Alton announced with all the acerbic authority of a former prime minister that Mr Hogg had "behaved like a little schoolboy" — adding for good measure "it is time he grew up".

Usually, however, senior politi-

cians take care to avoid such a fate. Harold Macmillan, for one, always contrived to be much more feline than when necessary, towards members of his own party. When, for example, Sir Anthony Nutting resigned in protest over Suez in 1956, Macmillan encouraged the Downing Street press secretary of the day to "spread the dirt about Nutting". (William Clark, Anthony Eden's short-lived spokesman at No 10, was deeply shocked and refused to do anything about it, although details of the departing minister's private life surfaced nevertheless in *The Sunday Express*.)

By contrast, Conservative Central Office, which is often regarded as the spider at the centre of the rumour web, can behave with notable restraint. It certainly knew all about Jeremy Thorpe and Norman Scott long before either of the 1974 general elections. But, although Edward Heath's government at the time was under severe pressure from the Liberals, a decision was taken at the highest level to make no use of the information. That decision was all the more creditable as it is usually when troubles pile up — as they certainly had by 1974 — that political parties find themselves tempted into the territory of black propaganda.

It was, no doubt, with that very much in mind that in September 1974 Harold Wilson chose a platform in Portsmouth to deliver a specific warning against the tricks he feared the Conservatives might get up to in order to win back power. This was an extraordinary speech, with its specific allegation that "cohorts of distinguished journalists" were "scouring the land" in an effort to dig up any material discreditable to Labour politicians and their party. In the event, the old news editor's warning was not borne out by anything that happened in the campaign, when Labour enjoyed



When governments are in trouble, smears are not far behind: Cummings' view of events of 1963

the most friendly press coverage it has had in any post-war election. Yet, with the benefit of hindsight and in the light of Peter Wright's revelations in *Spycatcher*, it is all too easy to understand why Harold Wilson thought it prudent to launch a pre-emptive strike.

Nevertheless, over the past 70 years it is probably true that there has been only one serious stain upon the Conservative party's escutcheon. That was the incident of the Zinoviev letter in 1924. It is now generally accepted that the letter, purporting to come from the Supreme Soviet to the Labour Foreign Secretary, was a forgery, but that did not prevent the *Daily Mail* from playing it up for all it was worth at the time.

Again, it may be significant that the party tried to keep its own fingers clean by using a newspaper

as its conduit pipe. There is now little doubt that the letter, if not his own invention, was at least planted by Sir Joseph Ball, who, improbably and improperly, combined open and above board responsibilities in Conservative Central Office with more mysterious duties discharged for the security services.

On the other side of the ledger, the Tories have long felt aggrieved by the campaign which the *Daily Mirror* conducted during the 1951 general election. Starting out very early on by posing the question "Whose finger do you want on the trigger?", the paper hammered away at the same theme all the way through the campaign. The paper tried to stoke fears about what was then atomic rather than nuclear war, and the clear subtext of its successive front-page headlines, culminating on polling day itself,

was that Winston Churchill was a warmonger who could not be trusted to preserve the peace of the world. Churchill himself was so upset by the paper's campaign that he insisted on suing for libel, despite winning the election, and eventually collected £1,000 in an out-of-court settlement.

The truth, of course, is that smears by themselves are seldom wholly effective. To work in political terms, they have to include a scare element (hence the success of the Tories' distortion of the Labour party's tax proposals at the last election). Many would maintain that all this is part of the rough-and-tumble of political combat. If I have a doubt about that, it is because I still recall the notorious Willie Horton television commercials in the 1988 presidential election. A message as base as that one, devalues the whole democratic process.

## Retirement — with clocks

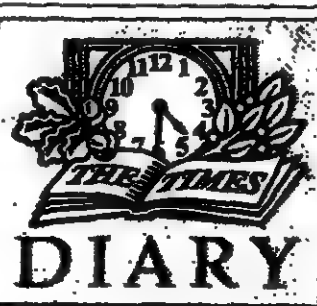
AS ALISON HALFORD retired from her £45,000-a-year job yesterday, headhunters were preparing to inundate the former police officer with offers likely at the very least to quadruple her salary. At just 52, Halford could work for at least eight more years.

John Stalker, after departing in not dissimilar circumstances, landed several jobs said to have netted him £250,000 a year — ranging from advising Millwall FC on security to working for Central TV.

Yet employment consultants in Liverpool doubt Halford will want to work again after receiving such a substantial settlement and an inflation-proof pension. "Why would she want the aggravation of going to work?" asks Tim Read, of Read and Associates. "She is well-connected here in Liverpool, and might involve herself in community work. But she should retire gracefully to her garden and contemplate the flowers." Yet others are already wooing Halford as a consultant to major businesses, security firms and private detective agencies in the area. "Now that her name has been cleared, there will be numerous opportunities if she wants them. She also has a great cachet as a representative of successful career women," said one upmarket employment agency yesterday.

"We could line her up with all sorts of lucrative contracts." Brian Hilliard, editor of *Police Review*, who has been close to Halford throughout the tribunal, says: "She has already secured a book contract with HarperCollins. She may well retire to Spain where she has a place outside Malaga, and concentrate on building up her collection of clocks."

Which leaves me with only this apologetic sick note. I have been told how to print out, now, but whether it is a lesson learnt remains, literally, to be seen.



● Everywhere Robert Key turns these days, he seems to be confronted with problems. If it isn't David Mellor, his boss at the heritage ministry, it is his neighbour's horse, which has kept Key occupied by failing to clear the fence dividing the two properties. This week Key, who had just opened his red ministerial boxes at his Wiltshire home, was disturbed by a noise at his front gate. Soapy, the neighbour's horse, had tried to jump the fence into his garden, but had ended with his legs tangled in the gate. Key rushed to the scene and immediately summoned a vet. "Mr Key saved Soapy's life," says the horse's grateful owner. Sue O'Gorman. He is also doing a similarly valiant job attempting to save his boss's career.

## A smear too far

CHRISTOPHER HITCHES, columnist for *The Nation* and a much favoured Brit among the pundits on Capitol Hill, has been dropped from the roster of talking heads for election coverage by the TV station Comedy Central. While debating with writer John Podberz on family values during the Democratic convention last week, Hitches used no fewer than three expletives while discussing an imaginary conversation over the

Bush breakfast table, in which he portrayed the president denying in emphatic terms to his wife that he was having an affair, and instructing his son to leak the denial to *Newsweek*.

Anchorman Al Franken tried to intercede, and when that failed the programme switched to advisers. Hitchens, who recently led a debate in favour of political saints against sinners at the Oxford Union, says: "I had been told I need not watch my mouth because it was cable TV. Then the next day I got a message saying I had been fired."

● As ministers prepare to fly to far flung spots for their summer vacations, one at least is planning something of a railwayman's holiday. Transport Minister Roger Freeman and his wife Jennifer are planning a three-week trip on

At least it's the right kind of snow



the Trans-Siberian railway, from Moscow to Peking via Mongolia. Freeman, a regular train commuter, is convinced that by the time he returns he will be in the mood to take a more benign view of British Rail. "We have even been told to take our own toilet paper," he says.

## Sum novel

AMID accusations and denials, the literary world was agog yesterday at the news that Anthony Cheetham's publishing house has paid £250,000 for the first prose novel by Vikram Seth. This puts Seth alongside Salman Rushdie, who was paid a similar sum for *The Satanic Verses*. Only such populists as Jeffrey Archer and Ken Follett command more.

Yet the talk in publishing circles is about the news that Giles Gordon, Seth's agent, has sold the book to Phoenix, the literary arm of Cheetham's publishing house Orion, which, coincidentally, employs Maggie Gordon, the agent's wife. Gordon denies any family favouritism in the sale of *A Suitable Boy*, an enormous tome about India in the 1950s, which he describes as one of the great novels of the century. "We were on holiday at the time of the deal. This is the first time I have offered a new author to Maggie's firm. It would have been quite improper for me to offer it directly to her."

● No conference is complete without its fringe, and the International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam this week is no exception. Delegates have all had invitations to "Europe's first pan-sexual safer sex night" after the conference. The owners of America's Queen of Heaven safer sex club in San Francisco have flown over to organise the event in conjunction with Tuppy Owens, producer of *The Sailer Sex Maniacs* Diary. Owens says: "There have been complaints that current safer sex propaganda is depressing and omits the fun and pleasures still open to us. This event will counteract such trends." Tickets cost £120, and the location the organisers coyly describe as "a cosy dungeon in central Amsterdam".





## PUBLIC PENANCE

Britain's public finances are in a mess. Ministers were irresponsibly extravagant before an election that many believed they would anyway lose. Their strategy since has been to hope that something, preferably the economy, would turn up. Unfortunately the economy has shown no signs of resuming the growth necessary to floor government finances off the stung on which they are beached. This is the background to today's cabinet meeting at which ministers will be told that the money has run out.

This year's public sector borrowing requirement looks set to overrun the £28 billion forecast in the Budget, which itself was double the figure forecast last year. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development estimates that between two-thirds and three-quarters of the deficit can be put down to such recessionary factors as high unemployment benefit payouts and low tax receipts. But that still leaves £8 to £10 billion worth of spending that has nothing to do with the state of the economy.

Now, like someone returning from a holiday binge half a stone overweight, ministers will have to do penance. Their spending bids are already £14 billion above the planning total, and that total presupposes a deficit of more than £32 billion next year, which is already likely to overshoot. It simply is not feasible to borrow much more than that. The markets will start to complain about the amount of gilt-edged stock being issued. Already the Treasury has had to row back humiliatingly on its latest national savings bond because it was soaking up savings that building societies needed. And if ever there was a good time for unpopular political decisions, it is now, straight after an election victory.

Where will the savings come from? The temptation will be to sacrifice capital spending. It is easier to postpone the building of new schools or hospitals than to take tough decisions on, say, public sector pay. True, much current spending is unavoidable: benefits cannot be cut and have to

be paid on demand. But capital spending is more useful for an economy in recession, and more likely to create jobs, than fatter pay packets for civil servants. Moreover, while many in the private sector have suffered pay freezes or lost their jobs, public-sector workers have been cocooned. Ministers should be prepared to be tough in this pay round.

Other obvious candidates for cuts are defence and road-building. If ministers want to improve the transport system, investment in rail is more productive and better for the environment. Indeed if the government wants to improve its green credentials and its finances at the same time, it could do worse than introduce a carbon tax.

It may seem perverse to be trying to rein back increases in public spending at a time when the economy is so sluggish. But government has to borrow the money for its spending, which in the short term puts pressure on interest rates and in the long term has to be paid back. The private sector, by contrast, has plenty of money to spend. The percentage of income that people are saving is at its highest for ten years. To promote recovery the government must persuade them to go out and spend some of that money.

To that end, it is counter-productive to be running schemes that positively encourage people to save. Tax breaks on share ownership and savings accounts introduced during a boom when the government wanted to curb consumption are now operating against the grain of the economy. If the government withdrew them, it could both save money and boost demand at the same time.

Meanwhile, ministers really must stop talking about aiming for zero inflation. Low inflation is a means, not an end. Prosperity is the goal, and it can be achieved more easily with 4 per cent inflation — roughly the same as Britain's trading partners — than zero. The tougher ministers sound on inflation, the more reluctant people will be to spend money. And private-sector spending is what the economy most needs.

## FACING THE MOB

Italy is marginally better positioned to counter the shock of the Mafia's latest mockery of the law than it was when Giovanni Falcone was assassinated in May. It took the murder of the Mafia's most respected foe to end the political squabbling which had left the country without either president or government for six weeks, following a general election which had pronounced the voters' curse on the entire postwar political establishment.

Now Italy has in President Oscar Scalfaro and the prime minister, Giuliano Amato, the almost unprecedented asset of two men picked for their competence and, above all, their integrity. But they must do far more than shift convicted mafiosi from Sicilian to mainland prisons and send yet more police to Palermo if they are to convince Italians, after the murder of Signor Falcone's friend and colleague, Paolo Borsellino, that the state is now genuinely at war with the Mafia it has tolerated for so long.

When Signor Amato declares that "the government, parliament and judiciary will respond with the necessary unity and strength" to the killing of Signor Borsellino, he will strain the credibility of most Italians. Prosecuting magistrates in Milan and Venice have uncovered webs of bribery related to construction contracts from which all the main parties have taken cuts. Two investigations now involve such senior socialist politicians as Bettino Craxi and Gianni De Michelis, respectively former prime minister and foreign minister. The magistrates involved have become popular heroes.

These prosecutions have reinforced Italian suspicions that organised crime flourishes with the collusion of, and to the profit of, Italy's political class. Both the murdered judges complained publicly that the politicians were frustrating their efforts to bring the Mafia to heel, by holding up or

neutralising laws against organised crime. The creation of the elite national anti-Mafia unit that Signor Falcone and then Signor Borsellino were asked to head has been delayed in parliament. And too many of the more than a hundred anti-Mafia laws which have surmounted Italy's formidable legislative hurdles in the past decade have been so sketchily enforced that they are mere paper tigers.

Nothing less than dismantling the systems of political patronage in which organised crime flourishes will, most Italians believe, shorten the odds against which men such as Falcone and Borsellino fought and tragically lost. Instead of weak coalition governments and strong political parties, Italy now needs strong government, less dependent on party kingmakers. For once, Signor Amato's appointment was the result not of a backroom deal but of the need of all parties to find a credible reformer. This is promising, but his support in Italy's hopelessly fragmented parliament is so weak that he must depend on reaching over the politicians to the public to get his reforms through.

His trouble is that these reforms must involve an assault on all the "perks" — inflated pensions, tolerated tax evasion, over-manning by perhaps a fifth in the state sector, vote-buying investments — which have compensated the man in the street for the state's manifest failings. By their massive protest vote in April's elections, and their demonstrations in disgust at the Mafia killings, Italians have challenged the politicians to clean up their act. No longer are they comfortable with the sustaining myth that governments do not matter. But they may not like the strong medicine Signor Amato is mixing in response. If the country wants to defeat murderers, mobs and *malgoverno*, it must have the stomach for the hardships the battle will bring.

## LIQUID IN LIVERPOOL

A lot of public money, perhaps over a million pounds, has been spent trying to prove that Alison Halford had been discriminated against in her police career because of her sex. Miss Halford sued Merseyside police in a case sponsored by the Equal Opportunities Commission that seemed at first a simple test of the right of women to advance on merit to the top. The right is worth fighting for, but all sides seemed rapidly to lose sight of the main point. The home secretary, Kenneth Clarke, was entirely justified in stepping in to call a halt. Another million and six more months could easily have been spent getting nearer to truth than to justice.

After she began her case, a disciplinary investigation was started against Miss Halford, who as an assistant chief constable is Britain's most senior policewoman. All these cases are now being brought to rest today by an out-of-court settlement to which both sides have agreed, albeit with some disgruntlement among members of the police authority. Miss Halford is to retire with a clean record, on a good pension.

As it unfolded, the case became notable not for advancing the cause of women's careers in the police but for the exposure it has given to the crudity of the Merseyside police "caneen culture", and the top echelon's version thereof in particular. The police like to complain from time to time about the contribution strong drink makes to death on the road and to crimes of violence. They say rather quietly about the influence of strong drink on themselves and the quarrels of their senior officers. According to Miss Halford, who was no teetotaler, "drinky poos" — drinks parties — took place

in Merseyside CID "at the drop of a hat"; and not much less often, elsewhere in the force. To judge from the evidence, it seemed a little unfair that she alone was accused of being in charge of the force, as senior duty officer, while affected by drink.

Miss Halford was an exceedingly tough-minded woman in a rough, macho, hard-drinking world: "liquidacious", as she once referred to it. Allegations of male hostility towards any woman venturing into such circles are entirely credible, and the EOC rightly regards that prejudice as unacceptable. But the way in which it blocked her further promotion became more and more complex with time.

Most of the evidence given at the tribunal suggested a dislike of Miss Halford by some of her colleagues and superiors because of her personality, her informality, her strong-mindedness, her rudeness, her failure to conform to certain conventions of behaviour, especially expectations among conservative policemen about what is and what is not "ladylike". She seemed bent on out-playing the men at their own game. They hit back. Both sides seemed to lose all sense of proportion. Even the most worldly taxpayer is likely to be taken aback by the state of affairs among senior Liverpool police officers.

The affair illustrates all the vices of an adversarial quasi-judicial system when that approach is inappropriate. What had gone wrong was essentially a management failure. It needed to be corrected administratively. Administratively, the home secretary should now look further into the way the Merseyside force is managed, and not just to ensure it gives fair treatment to women. He should tell it the time has come to dry out and grow up.

## Privacy, the press and the courts

From Mr Christopher Morcom, QC

Sir, In your leader today, "Mellor's misfortune", you correctly make a distinction between things which "interest the public" and things which may be in the "public interest". You then observe that editors, above all, ought to know the difference, and conclude that the matter should be left to editors, not to the courts.

It is an unfortunate fact that, time and again, it has been shown that some editors do not know the difference, or if they do, that they are not prepared to accept that such a distinction exists. If to do so would impair their circulations. Even if an offending editor receives a "rap on the knuckles" from the Press Complaints Commission, that is no redress for the person whose privacy has been unjustifiably invaded.

I do not believe that it can be seriously disputed that any individual is entitled to be protected against invasion of privacy, save where public interest requires otherwise. I suggest that it has been amply demonstrated that there is a clear need for a legal right to privacy.

Such a right, enforceable by the courts, should be provided where an editor, whether through lack of judgment or for reasons of expediency, fails to make the distinction between what the public is interested in and what is in the public interest.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER MORCOM,  
1 Essex Court, Temple, EC4.  
July 21.

From Mrs Laureen Fleischmann

Sir, Intrusion into private lives by the press should not be curtailed by direct parliamentary restriction — the freedom of the press protects us all — but by the ability to sue in the civil courts for a breach of the right to privacy.

This could be achieved by a statutory extension to the list of tortious acts that can presently be litigated upon, with perhaps the only defence available being "in the public interest". The burden of proving such a defence should lie with the defendant. Legal aid should be available to the plaintiff, and the right to trial by jury should be available to both parties.

Yours faithfully,  
LAUREN FLEISCHMANN,  
2 Pump Court, Temple, EC4.  
July 20.

From Mrs Annabel James

Sir, The national heritage minister may or may not have misbehaved. TV and newspaper editors may find it all quite exciting, but it is so boring for most of us. Could we have some real news, please?

Yours faithfully,  
ANNABEL JAMES,  
The Garden Flat, 31 Royal Park,  
Clifton, Bristol, Avon.  
July 21.

## First-aid priority

From Air Chief Marshal Sir David Parry-Evans

Sir, Your article, "Why can't we cope with a crisis?" (Health, July 17), makes me wonder why it is taking so long for the issue of first aid to be given serious consideration. In many years of service we at St John Ambulance have been consistently dismayed at the lack of public and public-sector interest in first aid despite the determined efforts of several organisations to bring it to the forefront of health and safety debate.

Now you have highlighted the gravity of the situation and the lack of attention given to it, let us hope the vital issue of first aid in the public arena is to stay.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID PARRY-EVANS  
(Chief Commander,  
St John Ambulance),  
The Order of St John,  
1 Grosvenor Crescent, SW1.

## Relative values

From Mr Roy Boulting

Sir, I note that the house John Lennon bought in 1965 for £25,000 and gave to the aunt who brought him up has just been sold to a millionaire Beatles fan for £410,000 (report, later editions, July 17).

Below, in the same column under the heading, "Sale falls flat", we learn that Sir Winston Churchill's former flat in Westminster failed to reach its reserve price of £300,000 at an auction in Mayfair.

The values — and the valued — of our times, perhaps?

Yours and etc.,  
ROY BOULTING,  
5 Spare Acre Lane,  
Eynsham, Oxford.

## County history

From Dr Margaret Gelling

Sir, Philip Howard (... and more-over, July 11) is right to stress the long duration of the work of the Victoria County History, but more important now than its venerable past is its present and future. The nature of the volumes changed drastically in the decades following

The last paragraph of yesterday's letter from the Mersey Conservation Society should have read: "If the JEC Building Water directive is not functioning... we must reform it, not repeat it."

## Agenda for the EC summit in 1996

From Mr Alan Howarth, MP for Stratford on Avon (Conservative)

Sir, It is encouraging to read the letter (July 20) from business leaders arguing for a European Community dedicated to free enterprise. In the wake of the prime minister's negotiating success at Maastricht, and in the new volatility of sentiment across Europe, there is a crucial opportunity to articulate the principles that ought to characterise the future development of the Community.

As we look beyond Maastricht towards the Community's next inter-governmental conference, due in 1996, there are three propositions to which, in my view, we must win decisive assent.

1. The terms of reference and powers of the Community institutions must be redefined. This must be done by the member states, and it should not thereafter be for the Community institutions to interpret the extent of their own powers.

The Commission should lose its present power of initiative and become the civil service of the Community, led by the Council of Ministers. The role of the European Court of Justice should be recast, and it should cease to engage in constitutional innovation.

All of this needs to be set down in treaty revisions drafted in lucid and legally watertight language.

2. The Community should bring its view of economic reality into line with the modern world. Mass heavy industries and continental-scale organisation characterised an era that has passed. Today's most important raw material is knowledge, and the information economy is global and not susceptible to bureaucratic control.

## Questions of judgment

From Viscount Bledisloe

Sir, Mr Pannick ("Questions of judgment", July 17) points out that the Master of the Rolls has "greater judicial power to mould civil law than any other serving judge". He rightly concludes that the next holder of this important office needs to be an able jurist who can give principled answers to complex problems. So far, so good.

However, Mr Pannick also says that the person to be appointed needs to be an efficient administrator, and cites increased efficiency as Lord Donaldson's primary achievement. This is factually correct. But this administrative achievement is a notable contrast to the achievement of his predecessor, Lord

Denning, in modernising and humanising the law of the land. By the nature of their upbringing, few judges have had much experience as administrators, and if in the selection process primary attention is to be given to administrative ability, this is likely to be at the expense of outstanding legal ability.

Surely the time has come when both the Master of the Rolls and the Lord Chief Justice should be given a chief of staff of the calibre, and with the status, of the judges whom he has to administer. Thus, and only thus, could they be enabled to concentrate on their real job of moulding the law and striving towards a fair system of justice.

Yours sincerely,  
BLEDISLOE,  
Fountain Court, Temple, EC4.

Yours faithfully,  
J. C. STOTT,  
3 Kennedy Gardens,  
Sevenoaks, Kent.

## Coastal controls

From Mr F. G. Parrish

Sir, It is not quite correct to say that the Crown Estate Commissioners have planning powers relating to mineral extraction and fish farming ("Resorts press for laws to restore calm", July 13).

Fish-farming applications are the subject of extensive consultations and these are seen by some as a quasi-planning process, but the government has said it intends to pursue an evolutionary approach to future arrangements for fish farms.

Marine mineral extraction is subject to a non-statutory procedure controlled by government departments. The commissioners will not grant a licence for extraction without a favourable view from the department concerned, but they do not act as a planning authority.

Yours faithfully,  
F. G. PARRISH  
(Manager, Marine Estates),  
The Crown Estate,  
16 Carlton House Terrace, SW1.  
July 14.

## College library hours

From Mrs Magda Czigan

Sir, Matthew d'Ancona in his vision of campus life 18 years hence ("Can we afford a degree for all?", July 14) expresses anxiety that libraries will be compelled to stay open for 45 weeks of the year. Most university libraries in this country already stay open for 50 weeks of the year, closing down only for the Christmas and Easter breaks.

The question is not whether libraries should remain open each day, every week, but for how many hours? Should they be open for 12 hours or even longer over the summer months? And, in the name of efficiency, with fewer and fewer staff?

No wonder that the profession once thought to be one of the least stressful is now becoming an occupational hazard.

Yours sincerely,  
MAGDA CZIGAN  
(Librarian),  
Imperial College of Science,  
Technology and Medicine,  
Prince Consort Road, SW7.  
July 14.

## Putting her back into it

From Mr John Dove

Sir, I am not competent to comment on Mr Faldo's expertise with a golf club; as we saw at Muirfield, the results speak magnificently for themselves.

However, as a specialist in spinal disorders I must express grave concern for the well-being of the lumbar spine of the young lady who trips along in his wake encumbered by a monstrous load of his accoutrements. I have noted that at our local mortuary can avail themselves of a wheeled cart for this purpose.

May I, Sir, through your columns prevail upon our Open Champion to allocate a small proportion of his winnings to the purchase of such an appliance.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN DOVE,  
Park Hill, Pingle Lane,  
Stone, Staffordshire.  
July 21.

Business letters, page 21

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

## A London home for the asking

From Mr Charles Ryland

Sir, I read of the plight of the homeless ("90,000 new houses for rent needed", later editions, July 16) with increasing frustration. My discomfort arises as I, probably amongst many others, could help alleviate the dire straits of some that need a home.

My wife and I own a house in London with an empty two-bedroom self-contained flat on the top floor, which we would gladly make available to one or two of the young homeless on the streets at no charge. This might be the opportunity that some desperately need to start them on the path towards employment and a home of their own.

Every agency or council office I contacted, including a number of charities, were so unhelpful, and so incredulous of my offer, that eventually I gave up. Their view was that they could not vouch for the wards in their care — a fair point, but if I am willing to take the risk of allowing strangers into my home I would not hold anyone responsible except myself should anything go wrong.

There is enough accommodation in private houses around the country to provide a ready solution to a national disgrace.

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES RYLAND,  
c/o 12 Groveland Court,  
Bow Lane, EC4.  
July 16.

## Legal aid policy

From the Chairman of the Legal Aid Practitioners Group

Sir, Many of the sentiments expressed by Patrick Stevens in his provocative article, "Milking the legal aid cow" (Law Times, July 14), are shared by many legal aid practitioners.

The unfortunate proclivity of Mr John Pits, chairman of the Legal Aid Board, to equate productivity with servicing as many clients as quickly and cheaply as possible, regardless of consequences, is symptomatic of the government's current policy towards legal aid. It is also true that the present system of payment tends to reward the quantity of work rather than the quality.

The Lord Chancellor's proposals for the introduction of standard fees in magistrates' courts work will serve only to increase the standardisation of criminal defence work and will provide even less incentive for practitioners to provide a better quality service — that is, for those solicitors who are not deterred altogether from continuing to provide a legal aid defence service.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN GILCHRIST,  
Chairman, Legal Aid  
Practitioners Group,  
c/o Hart Forgan (solicitors),  
26 Market Place, W1.

## Mersey birdlife

From Mr Graham Wynne

Sir, Fundamental questions on the environmental impact of the Mersey barrage remain unanswered (Focus on Merseyside, July 13). Studies performed by the Mersey Barrage company have confirmed that important numbers of birds depend on the Mersey estuary.

However, insufficient data have been gathered to allow a realistic assessment of the effects of the barrage on birds and many other environmental factors. A reduction in tidal flows may adversely affect the dilution of pollutants in the estuary and reverse the successes of the present clean-up campaign.

The RSPB's view is that the barrage poses an unacceptable threat to the internationally important wildlife of the Mersey estuary. There are cheaper ways of reducing pollution from electricity generation which have much less environmental impact.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM WYNNE  
(Director, Conservation),  
The Royal Society for the  
Protection of Birds,  
The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire.

## Putting her back into it

From Mr John Dove

Sir, I am not competent to comment on Mr Faldo's expertise with a golf club; as we saw at Muirfield, the results speak magnificently for themselves.

However, as a specialist in spinal disorders I must express grave concern for the well-being of the lumbar spine of the young lady who trips along in his wake encumbered by a monstrous load of his accoutrements. I have noted that at our local mortuary can avail themselves of a wheeled cart for this purpose.

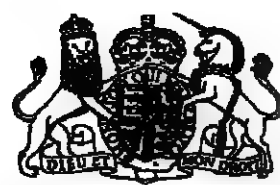
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July 21.

Business letters, page 21

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## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
July 21: His Excellency U Hla Maung was received in audience by the Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Union of Myanmar to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: U Zaw Wynn (Minister Counsellor), U Myint Soe (Second Secretary), U Kyaw Swe Tint (Third Secretary), U Hla Kyang (Attache), U Than Sain (Attache), U Ye Hla (Attache), U Cho Win (Attache).

Madame Hla Maung was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir David Gillmore (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present, and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr Michael Gore was received by the Queen and Kissed Hands on his appointment as Governor of The Cayman Islands.

Mrs Gore was also received by Her Majesty.

Mr Hugh Tunnell (Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Bahrain) was received by the Queen.

Mrs Tunnell was also received by Her Majesty.

The President of Mexico visited The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh and remained in luncheon.

The following were invited: His Excellency Señor Fernando Solana (Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs), His Excellency Señor Bernardo Sepúlveda (Ambassador of Mexico and Señor Sepúlveda's Honorary Aide, Doctor Pedro Aspe Armella (Secretary of State for Finance and Public Credit), Sir David Gillmore (Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) and Lady Gillmore, Sir Roger Hevry (British Ambassador at Mexico City) and Lady Hevry.

A Guard of Honour, found by the Second Battalion, Coldstream Guards was mounted in the Quadrangle.

The Major-General Commanding Household Division and the Field Officer in Brigade Waiting were present.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave an Afternoon Party in the garden of Buckingham Palace.

The Prince and Princess of Wales were present.

Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms and The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeoman of the Guard were on duty.

The Bands of the Coldstream

Guards and The Royal Welch Fusiliers played selections of music during the afternoon.

The Rt Hon Neil Kinnock, MP was received by The Queen on the relinquishment of his post as Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs Kinnock was also received by Her Majesty.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, The British Overseas Expedition 1992, attended a Presentation and Reception following the return of the Expedition, at Church House Conference Centre, Great Smith Street, London SW1, this morning.

His Royal Highness, President, City and Guilds of London Institute, this evening attended a Dinner for Prince Philip Medalists at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, London SW1.

Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis was in attendance.

The Duke of York this evening took the Salute at a performance of the Royal Tournament at Earls Court.

Captain Rupert Maitland-Titterton was in attendance.

**CLARENCE HOUSE**  
July 21: Dame Frances Campbell-Preston has succeeded the Lady Margaret Colville as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
July 21: The Prince of Wales this morning received the Permanent Under-Secretary of State and Head of Her Majesty's Diplomatic Service (Sir David Gillmore) at Kensington Palace.

His Royal Highness subsequently visited Waltham Forest Housing Action Trust.

Mr Hugh Merrill was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales this evening opened the "Parnham at Sotheby's" exhibition at Sotheby's, 34 New Bond Street, London W1.

Miss Belinda Harley was in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
July 21: The Duke of Gloucester today visited the East of England Show, Peterborough, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden).

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

**YORK HOUSE**  
July 21: The Duchess of Kent, Chancellor, today presided at Congregations for the Conterment of Degrees at the University of Leeds.

Mrs Peter Wilton-Sinwell was in attendance.

## Today's royal engagements

The Queen will hold an inventory at Buckingham Palace at 11.00.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will visit the East of England Show in Peterborough at 11.40.

The Duke of Gloucester will attend a dinner at Harrogate Court Palace at 7.30 to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Duke of Kent will also attend.

The Duke of Kent, as Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will visit the William Cook Steel foundry in Sheffield at 10.10; will visit the Midland Bank offices in Sheffield at 12.05; and will open Koyote Bazaar (Europe) in Barnsley at 1.50.

## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Anthony Ashley Cooper, 1st Earl of Shaftesbury, statesman, Wimbome St Giles, Dorset, 1621; Gregor Mendel, pioneer of the study of heredity, Heinzendorf, Austria, 1822; Frederick William Rolfe (self-styled Baron Corvo), writer, 1860; Stephen Vincent Benet, poet, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 1898.

**DEATHS:** Catherine Philips, poet, London, 1664; George Shaw, naturalist, London, 1813; Joseph Plazid, astronomer, Palermo, 1826; Wilson Barrett, stage-manager, London, 1904; Florent Ziegfeld, theatrical producer, Hollywood, 1932; John Dillinger, public enemy, shot dead by FBI officers, Chicago, 1934; Mackenzie King, prime minister of Canada, 1921-26, 1926-30, 1935-48, Kingston, Quebec, 1950; Carl Sandburg, poet and biographer, Flat Rock, North Carolina, 1907.

Telephone 071 481 4000

The Lord your God is in your midst, a warrior who will keep you safe. He will not allow you to be afraid, he will show you his love once more.  
Zechariah 3:17 RSC

## BIRTHS

**ALLWORK** - On July 14th, to Sue (nee Partington) and Matthew, a daughter, Natalie Jane.

**ARMSTRONG** - On July 18th, to David (nee Gordon) and Anne, a son, Jack George.

**BEEDLES** - On July 18th, to Susan (nee Arthur) and Kenneth, a daughter, Charlotte.

**BRIDGES** - On July 18th, to Susan (nee Arthur) and Kenneth, a daughter, Charlotte.

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## MARRIAGES

**SHARPDE** - On July 18th, to Susan (nee Arthur) and Kenneth, a daughter, Charlotte.

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Paul Bright, conservation officer with the Vincent Wildlife Trust, using radio tracking equipment to find the elusive dormouse

## Saving the common dormouse for reality

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A RESCUE operation for one of Britain's rarest rodents, the sleepy dormouse, was launched yesterday at the seventeenth century Tyndal Barn, newly-restored headquarters of the Kent Trust for Nature Conservation, near Maidstone.

Before a gathering of local notables, David Maclean, the countryside minister, declared that "Her Majesty's Government is firmly on the side of the dormouse. We cannot lecture other countries on the importance of bio-diversity if we fail to protect our own endangered species."

It is a sad fact that the fantasy world of *Alice in Wonderland* is the only place where most children or indeed adults are likely to meet a dormouse. Certainly, the Mad Hatter and the March Hare would be hard put today to find one to stuff into their teapot.

Once widespread in Britain, the increasingly uncommon common dormouse (*Muscardinus arvensis*) has gone from most northern and eastern counties. The sandy brown creature with bulging black eyes, weighing less than an ounce, survives mainly in Kent, Sussex, Hampshire,

the Isle of Wight, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall, Hereford and Worcester, Shropshire, Cumbria and Northamptonshire.

Even if they were plentiful, dormice would be hard to see. They are nocturnal creatures and hibernates from October to May, when they are cold to the touch and unable to rouse themselves rapidly even when handled. They wake up from time to time but only for a few hours.

In the summer they spend the nights foraging for food, much of the time in the tree tops. Their favourite diet includes flowers and pollen, fruit, insects and nuts, particularly hazelnuts. In the day they retire to nests near the ground, usually woven from grass and honeysuckle bark and

located in old birds' nests or holes in tree trunks.

Pat Morris, a zoologist at London University, who is in charge of the recovery project, blames the dormouse's decline mainly on the loss of coppiced woodland, its preferred habitat. Coppiced wood — the regrowth cut from tree stumps — was once in demand for charcoal and widely used as fencing and roofing material on farms.

Dr Morris said: "Coppicing creates an ideal habitat for dormice because it lets in some light, so promoting the shrubs and other plants on which dormice feed, and encourages horizontal branch growth, which enables the animals to move easily from tree to tree."

The first stage of the rescue plan, just completed, has been to place up to 50 wooden nesting boxes in each of 24 woods in southern and south-western England. These are all core sites for the surviving dormouse population and the aim is to prevent further erosion.

Next month a more ambitious experiment will be started near Chedd-

dar in Somerset. This will involve transferring two dormice from one wood to another which now has none but is suitable for them. The creatures will be fitted with collars containing miniature radio transmitters.

Paul Bright, of the Vincent Wildlife Trust, who is working with Dr Morris, said: "We will be able to track the movements of the dormice and measure their ability to find food and nesting sites. We will also be able to recapture them from time to time to check their body weight and health."

If the relocated animals show good survivability, English Nature, the government's chief conservation agency, hopes to re-introduce both wild and captive-reared dormice to areas from which they are now absent.

The timing of such re-introductions, Mr Bright says, will be tricky. If the animals are released in the spring they will have time to breed but food will be less plentiful. If they are released in autumn, they will have abundant food but will not have time to breed before going into hibernation.

Next month a more ambitious experiment will be started near Chedd-



The common dormouse: not so common nowadays

## Appointments

Latest appointments include: Miss Sophie Lambert to be promoted to Under Secretary in the Department of Transport in September as Head of the Road and Vehicle Safety Directorate.

Mrs Jane Carr to be a member of the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights, Northern Ireland.

Legal: Mr Peter William Urquhart and Mr David Christopher Morton to be circuit judges, assigned to the Northern Circuit and the Wales and Chester Circuit respectively.

**Breakfast**  
HM Government

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, presided yesterday at a breakfast given by Her Majesty's Government in the House in honour of the President of Mexico.

## Marriages

Dr A.J.M. Cobb and Professor J.I. Brookings. The marriage took place on Saturday, July 18, at St Francis Hall, University of Birmingham.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Katie and Amy Heath. Lucy, Jessica, Georgina Stratton and Hughie Jessel and Fred Raben. Mr Bernard Dreesman was best man.

A reception was held at Monkey Island and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr A.J. van der Heyde and Miss S.P.C. Powell-Shedden. The marriage took place on Saturday at St Mary's Church, Harmondsworth, Bucks.

A reception was held at the bride's home.

## Memorial service

Lieutenant-General E.N. Goddard. A memorial service for Lieutenant-General E.N. Goddard was held yesterday at Wadhurst Parish Church, East Sussex.

The Rev Michael Inley officiated. Mr Christopher Goddard, son, read the lesson and Brigadier H.B.C. Watkins gave an address.

**Reception**  
Cunning House

Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, President of the Hispanic and Lus Brazilian Council, was host yesterday at a reception held at Cunning House in honour of the President of Mexico.

**Lord Geraint**

The life barony conferred upon Mr Geraint Wyn Howell has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Geraint, of Pontnewydd in the County of Dyfed.

## Birthdays today

Dr Sir Reginald Bennett, former MP, 81; Group Captain Sir Hugh Dundas, former chairman, Prince's Youth Business Trust, 72; Mr Desmond Engestr, Surgeon to the Queen in Scotland, 54; Miss Julie Farron, a former director, Royal Academy of Dancing, 70; Mr Bryan Forbes, film director and producer, 66; Mr Justice Garland, 63; Mr Jimmy Hill, sports commentator, 64; General Sir Charles Huxtable, 61; Mrs J.A.G. Kennedy, civil engineer, 42; Miss Bonnie Langford, actress, 28; Professor Sir Ronald Mason, chemist, 62; Mr Terence Stamp, actor, 54; Sir William Wilkinson, former chairman, Nature Conservancy Council, 60; Mrs Diane Yeo, a charity commissioner, 47.

**Lord Stewartby**

The life barony conferred upon Sir Ian Stewart has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Stewartby, of Portmoor in the District of Perth and Kinross.

**Dinners**  
HM Government

The Hon Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and Mrs Hurd, held a dinner yesterday at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in honour of Lord and Lady Wilson of Tillym.

**1912 Club**

Mr Peter "Lilly" MP, was the guest of honour at a dinner of the 1912 Club, held yesterday at the House of Commons, by invitation of Mr Roger E. Sims, MP, chairman of the club. Dr Ian R. McKinley also spoke.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.D. Austin and Miss A.D.C. Elwes. The engagement is announced between Matthew, only son of Mr and Mrs John Austin, of Arden House, Warwickshire, and Amanda, elder daughter of Mr Timothy Elwes, and Miss Elwes, of St Andrews, Fife.

Mr N.L. Clark and Miss I.C. James. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, second son of Mr and Mrs J. Clark, of Easton Bray, Bedfordshire, and Isabel, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J.W. James, of Shephed, Leicestershire.

Mr R.M.G. Davies and Miss J.E. Cope. The engagement is announced between Richard Michael Guy Davies, of Primrose Hill, London, and Joanne Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs H. Cope, of Fareham, Hampshire.

Mr J.M.F. Fenwick and Miss K.A. Frazer. The engagement is announced between James Mark Fenwick, son of Mr and Mrs Tom Fenwick, of Wolsingham, Co Durham, and Katharine Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Frazer, of Chelsea, London.

Dr E. Ferris and Dr G. Adshad. Dr Rob Ferris and Dr Gwen Adshad are very pleased to announce their engagement. The wedding will take place in Adelaide, South Australia in January 1993.

Mr R.W.J. Hollingbery and Miss J.D.A. Rice. The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs M.J. Hollingbery, of Bishop Burton, East Yorkshire, and Julie D'Arcy, daughter of Mr A.L.G. Rice, of Felsed, Essex and Mrs W.E. Rice, of London.

Dr J.D. Simmons and Dr K.J.M. Jeffery. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, eldest son of Dr and Mrs A.V. Simmons, of Add, Leeds, and Katie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J.C. Jeffery, of Ludlow, Shropshire.

Mr G.W. Sutherland and Miss J.A.J. Dowry. The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr B.A. Sutherland, of Alton, and Mrs M. Sutherland, of Alton, and Julia, daughter of Mr and Mrs L.F.M. Dowry, of Luffenham, Herefordshire.

Captain R.G.J. Watson and Miss P.M. Stafford. The engagement is announced between Captain R.G.J. Watson, 17th/21st Lancers, elder son of Major and Mrs David Watson, Castle Cary, Somerset, and Pamela, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Stafford, of Longfoss House, Berwickshire.

Mr M.R. Yeates and Miss L.A. Sheppard. The engagement is announced between Michael, son of the late Mr J.H. Yeates and of Mrs F.V. Yeates, of St Albans, and Lucy Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs T.J. Sheppard, of Witham, Essex.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Telephone 071 782 7827

## BIRTHS

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**SPENCER** - On July 18th, to Robert (nee Corfield) and Anthony, a son, Edmund William.

**TINDLEY** - On July 17th, to Lucy (nee Corfield) and James, a daughter, Charlotte.

**WESTON** - On July 18th, to Sarah (nee Corfield) and Flavia, a daughter, Charlotte.

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## DEATHS

**BROWN** - On July 18th, at St Martin's Hospital, Bath, Dr John Brown, aged 84 years, died of cancer.

**COLBATCH-CLARK** - On July 18th, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Herefordshire, Leslie Colbatch-Clark, aged 85 years, died of cancer.

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## OBITUARY

## JOHN BRATBY

John Bratby, RA, painter and author, collapsed and died outside his home in Hastings on July 20 aged 64. He was born in Wimbledon on July 19, 1928.

DURING the middle and late 1950s John Bratby was the most public of British artists. His first one-man show of paintings — featuring all the intimacies of family living, from omelettes and chaos on the kitchen table through every room in the house including the smallest — won high praise from the critics. The blazing colour and sculptural quality of his oils were his trade-mark and his belligerent individuality — which included letters fired off to the press — associated him with the Angry Young Men of the John Osborne generation. He was one of the first media stars of the art world and his work soon hung in the Tate, the Victoria and Albert and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

In 1967 he began painting portraits of the famous. More than a thousand sitters, ranging from the Queen Mother to Sir Alec Guinness and Paul McCartney, subjected themselves to his highly individual portrait technique — which the journalist Jean Rook said was like being hit by a truck.

But Bratby paintings which were hailed in the 1950s as brilliant examples of a new genre were by the time being ignored, derided or dismissed as crude and uninteresting by the arts establishment. Only in last few years has his star again been in the ascendant. Last year a retrospective of his work was staged at the National Portrait Gallery, only the second held there of a living artist, and there were shows of his work at the Albemarle and Mayor Galleries. Bratby's paintings for the film of Joyce Cary's novel *The Horse's Mouth* in 1958, painted ostensibly by its Bohemian tramp-artist, Guileymon, added its fictional confusions to Bratby's persona. With his bushy white beard he sometimes appeared to be acting out Jimson in real life, to the delight of journalists. This obscured his acutely sensitive and intelligent nature.

John Randall Bratby's grandfather had been artistically inclined, and John was much stimulated by his father's teacher at Tiffin Boys' School in Kingston, Harold Watts. He studied at Kingston School of Art from 1949 to 1950 and — having applied to enter the Slade but changing his mind — at the Royal College of Art from 1951 to 1954, where he won an Abbey Minor Scholarship, an alban government scholarship, and a Royal College minor travelling bursary. A sensitive student, he hid behind a combative smugness, he subsequently claimed that he ignored his teachers at the RA; however, he was remembered by them as the most outstanding draughtsman among the students for many years and as an explosive sinner. On his last day at college he knocked on the door of a surprised leopards head to ask how to make money out of painting to pay for the necessities of life — wife and children, house and car.

At this time, when Expressionism was still far from general British acceptance, even in the art world, Bratby was interested in the art of Van Gogh, Munch, Kokoschka and the German Expressionists. Yet in the same year, 1954, he left college that he had his first one-man show, of 26 paintings, at Helen Lessore's Beaux Arts gallery. This created a major impression on the critics of the day. *The Times* critic assessed Bratby's impact by saying that, standing in front of his work, one could imagine what it would have been like to be confronted with a Van Gogh for the first time, in the early years of this century. David Sylvester linked him with the other young painters shown



John Bratby with a portrait of the Queen Mother, which was one of the six he painted of her

at the Beaux Arts — Jack Smith, Derrick Greaves and Edward Middleditch — and coined the term, to be much used in the future, "The Kitchen-Sink School". John Russell recalled Sickler's decree, "plain living and thick painting", and saw it as modified Expressionism. Another critic said that Bratby painted as if he wanted to imprint every scene on his consciousness.

John Berger, the most influential left-wing critic of the time, who believed in art as a tool of social progress, was initially impressed, whilst observing that such painting would lead either to "blind incoherence or profound discovery". Bratby's apparent lack of visual discrimination disturbed some critics, and Basil Taylor said that he "treated paint and colour like a carpet-laying gardener". Another followed this up by calling it "a rush across a garden in hotmail boots".

Bratby's output of paintings — in oil on hardboard and mostly large — was phenomenal and remained so. He soon left the critics visually exhausted. "As monotonously stunning as fireworks explosions on Bastille Day", was a typical verdict of the time. John Berger, who had probably hoped for a social realist painter to match Gurnsey or Peter de Francia, wrote of Bratby in his book of memoirs, *Permanent Red*, as having ruined himself, producing uninspired work.

However, Bratby was accepted for exhibition in the Royal Academy Summer Show from 1955, and in 1956 was exhibited at the British Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in company with other Kitchen-Sink painters and alongside the main exhibits of Lynn Chadwick and Ivon Hitchens. The Beaux Arts painters were seen as related internationally to the Italian social realists and to the French realists, as shown by

Quentin Bell at the Tate Gallery in 1955 — Buffet, Minaux, Rapp and Rebeyrolle.

Bratby himself, whilst rejecting the Kitchen-Sink appellation, considered himself a new realist who "painted the environment, with no social criticism". He reckoned that the Beaux Arts painters (who also included Bacon, Freud, and Bomberg's pupils, Auerbach and Kosoff, at the time) caught the mood of the decade 1950-60, with its threat of nuclear holocaust.

But Bratby found the Beaux Arts "a dry and unhappy place". After winning the Guggenheim Award for painting in Britain in 1956 and again, with Ben Nicholson, in 1958, and also the John Moores Junior Painting Prize in 1957, he moved his one-man shows to the Zwemmer Gallery for a number of years. Later he went to the Thackeray and Furness galleries.

Bratby's fame spread — if in rather distorted fashion — when in 1957-8, Knightsbridge Films embarked on an adaptation of the novel *The Horse's Mouth*, with its anti-hero (played by Alec Guinness), Guileymon, a Bohemian tramp-artist loosely based on the characters of Gerald Wilde and Stanley Spencer. John Bratby was finally chosen to provide the paintings.

Alec Guinness played the character as a failed artist, but the quality of the paintings provided an artistic success. Bratby went through a rather misanthropic period subsequently, and his paintings tended to have a close enough identification with Guileymon to stimulate and confuse the public appreciation of his own persona.

Bratby's brilliant draughtsmanship enabled him to present anything in front of him — from cornflake packets, beer bottles, and all the fotsam and jetsam of the

kitchen, to perspective views all around the studio, including windows, mirrors and even the painter himself. Then he embarked on series. There were sunflowers, "for their generosity, regality, strength and vigour"; his new snooker table, stuffed animal heads, obsessive portraits of Brigitte Bardot; and, constantly, his family and friends in groups. Less brilliant was the painting: if the drawing was realistic, the paint — sometimes applied direct from the tube like toothpaste and giving rise to the jibe "Tubism" — often simply followed the lines of the drawing, or made tessellated infills of such details as window-panes. There was seldom tonal painting to match the realism, and it was nearer to Fauvist colour than to Expressionist. This set up a visual and mental disturbance for the viewer, acting against the bracing joys of reality rather than enhancing them.

Bratby's critics decried his work as superficial, loosely put together in improvisational style and garishly coloured. To those who know only his paintings the drawings come as a revelation; and there are some sensitive watercolours also. However, with Bratby's move to outdoor paintings of boats from 1964, and his love affair with Venice, which took him back there more and more frequently and for longer periods, his touch with oils refined. Indeed, in later years he was able to complete more than 1,000 portraits (mostly at his own invitation) in four-hour sittings apiece in his house at Hastings, with its 20 rooms stacked with paintings.

In 1960 when American Abstract Expressionism eclipsed the unique vigour of Bratby's paintings he took to novel-writing — with considerable intelligence, sensitivity and autobiographical recall (though curiously few mentions of colour). However, the narrator figure tended to intrude too much. The first, *Breakdown* (1960), forecast Bratby's own breakdown of 1972, he claimed. The same could be said of *Break-Pedal Down* (1962); he later smashed his car into a wall. *Breakfast and Eleven* (1961), with its vividly recalled stuffy family life and agonies of adolescence around 1939, was dedicated to the theme that "the best Englishmen are twisted, for psychiatric cases are", and suggested boldly in its jacket blurb that Freud would have benefited by reading it. These were followed in 1963 by *Break 50 Kill*.

Bratby was a combative correspondent — writing to *The Times* against Royal Academicians on one occasion, or in favour of the Academy on another, or about the injustices of income tax and VAT to practising artists. In 1990 he attempted to claim £2,000 against the cost of two eye operations on the grounds that the eyes are a painter's instruments of trade and livelihood.

His writing ability was channelled from 1988 into the revival of the magazine *Art Quarterly*, the first issue was devoted to Venice, the second in 1989 to Paris, with contributions from a wide range of painters and others — John Ward, Bernard Dunstan, Michael Foot, Lord Longford, Michael Winner. Bratby had provided paintings for the film *Mistral's Daughter* in 1984.

John Bratby was elected Associate of the Royal Academy in 1959 but refused full Academician status when offered in 1968; however, he accepted it in 1971.

In 1953 he married Jean Cooke, the painter; they had three sons and one daughter. In 1977, after a divorce, he married the actress Patti Prince, whom he had met in 1974 through the Lonely Hearts column in *Times* *Out* magazine — as he typically, made public.

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John Bratby was elected Associate of the Royal Academy in 1959 but refused full Academician status when offered in 1968; however, he accepted it in 1971.

In 1953 he married Jean Cooke, the painter; they had three sons and one daughter. In 1977, after a divorce, he married the actress Patti Prince, whom he had met in 1974 through the Lonely Hearts column in *Times* *Out* magazine — as he typically, made public.

Bratby was a combative correspondent — writing to *The Times* against Royal Academicians on one occasion, or in favour of the Academy on another, or about the injustices of income tax and VAT to practising artists. In 1990 he attempted to claim £2,000 against the cost of two eye operations on the grounds that the eyes are a painter's instruments of trade and livelihood.

## APPRECIATIONS

## Sir Basil Smallpeice

THE obituary of Sir Basil Smallpeice (July 13) states that "He saw the QE2 into operation." This skirts over a most important and perhaps typical piece of decision making by Sir Basil.

The interior design of the QE2 had been delegated to Lady Brocklebank, the Cunard Chairman's wife. The Board of Trade was deeply concerned about this and referred the matter to the Council of Industrial Design, as the Design Council was then called. As chairman of that body, I journeyed to Liverpool to argue that the design should be in the hands of professional designers and not interior decorators, but totally failed in my mission. Soon afterwards Basil Smallpeice became chairman of Cunard and one of his first acts was to come to the Design Centre to



discuss the matter. As a result both the exterior and the interior design of the QE2 was placed in the hands of top professional designers, so that, when launched, she represented the best of British modern design rather than the threatened pastiche.

Sir Duncan Oppenheim

## James Crespi

ALTHOUGH we never met in Court, and rarely outside it during our professional lives, I have the warmest recollection of James Crespi (obituary, July 11).

Never having been at the school in London we were both "pseudo-evacuees" at the City of London School when Marlborough College was giving it generous and (it was thought) charitable hospitality during the war. We were divided by Form rather than by House, but sharing a somewhat portly build (I was quite sylph-like in comparison) and a love of music we became good friends.

From him I learnt the distinction between the adjectives "Lombard" and "Italian", and I shall never forget a conversation we had when walking in the rose garden. I suppose we must have been 14 years old at the time.

He enquired what news-



paper I read. I regretted to say that I read none. Without any trace of pomposity, but with great dignity, he delivered his reprimand: "Smivvis!" — it sounded almost like that — "I always read *The Times*, it is the only paper that publishes a proper Law Report."

His Honour Kenneth Smith

## Lord Kearon

YOUR thoughtful obituary of Lord Kearon (July 6) indeed paid tribute to the many and varied achievements of a truly remarkable man. Very rarely are the heights of technical excellence, commercial and financial acumen and practical vision combined in one human being and brought to reality by a man of action.

There is, however, one very special quality to which I

would add my testimony. C. F. K., as he was affectionately known within Courtaulds, was a supreme leader of men. There are few men, who can not only bring out the best in men and women under their control, but bring out qualities and resources of which they themselves are unaware. His passing will be mourned by the many people.

Eric Muller

## Charles Spinks

MAY I correct a statement made in the obituary of Charles Spinks (June 26)?

Charles Spinks was a student at the London Academy of Music, (not the College) whose principal was Dr Yorke-Trotter. While there he was also taught by my mother, Gladys Puttick.

When he went to Trinity

College of Music as a senior student in the early 1930s, he persuaded the College authorities to ask my mother to teach creative musicianship there, and soon after her appointment, Charles Spinks, whom she readily recognised as an outstanding musician and future teacher, became part of her teaching team.

Anne Cassal

## University news

## Reading

Professor Paul Mosley has been appointed to the professorship of economics from January 1. Since 1986 he has been professor of development economics and policy, and director of the Institute of Development Policy and Management, University of Manchester.

Personal title of professor, from October 1:  
Dr P A Allum (Reader in Politics) — Professor of Italian Politics;  
Dr B L Aikin (Senior Lecturer in Construction Management and Engineering) — Professor of Construction Management and Engineering.

Mr Z Baranski (Senior Lecturer in Italian Studies) — Professor of Italian Studies;  
Dr C R Chaplin (Senior Lecturer in Engineering) — Professor of Engineering;  
Dr A Gilbert (Reader in Chemistry) — Professor of Photochemistry.

Mr K D Patterson (Reader in Economics) — Professor of Economics;  
Dr R M Sibby (Reader in Pure and Applied Zoology) — Professor of Behavioural Ecology.

Personal title of reader, from October 1:  
Dr B C B Arnold (Lecturer in History) — Reader in Medieval History;  
Dr R H Ellis (Lecturer in Agriculture) — Reader in Crop Physiology;  
Dr P John (Lecturer in Agricultural Botany) — Reader in Plant Science;  
Dr G R Mitchell (Lecturer in Physics) — Reader in Polymer Physics;  
Mr R D Pearce (Senior Research Fellow in Economics) — Reader in International Business;  
Dr K C Postlethwaite (Lecturer in Science

## and Technology Education)

Reader in Education: Dr K Pye (Lecturer in the Postgraduate Research Institute for Sedimentology) — Reader in Sedimentology;  
Dr C G Thirle (Lecturer in Agricultural Economics and Management) — Reader in Agricultural Economics;  
Dr P A J Waddington (Lecturer in Sociology) — Reader in Police Studies.

The following lecturers have been promoted to senior lecturer with effect from October 1:  
Mr A K Bate (Classics); Dr J D Burton (Engineering); Miss V A Gibson (Land Management and Development); Dr D Hallam (Agricultural Economics and Management); Dr M A Lomax (Physiology & Biochemistry); Dr A R McCaffery (Pure and Applied Zoology); Mrs S E Murdoch (Lecturer in Arts and Humanities in Education); Mr M J Stabler (Economics); Dr N H Wailes (French Studies); Dr S A Williams (Computer Science).

Manchester  
Title of professor emeritus: Professor P J Holloway, Professor of Child Dental Health; and Professor D J Palmer, Professor of English Literature.

Appointments to chairs:  
Roger John Ling, MA, PhD (Cambridge), Reader in the History of Art, to be Professor of Classical Art and Archaeology in the Department of History of Art from August 1.

Catherine Marsh, BA, PhD (Cambridge), Lecturer (and Senior Lecturer-elect) in Quantitative Methods, to be Professor of Quantitative Methods, in the Departments of Sociology and Economics and Social Statistics, from August 1.

## Professors of law, from August 1:

Rodney John Bratby, LLB (Southampton) — Reader in Constitutional Law; Martin Wasik, LLB (Manchester), MA (Keele), Reader in Law.

Lecturers  
Accounting and Finance: N L Joseph; Education in Gender in Development: Rose N Ayuru; Special Education (Internationally): J A N Kisingi; Nursing: Susan M Davies; Psychiatry: Elspeth A Guthrie; Medical Microbiology: J S Southill; Health Education: A C Whitehead; Oral Surgery: Paul Coulthard; Oral and Maxillo-facial: B T Musgrove.

Arthritis and Rheumatism Council: £318,960 for UK national repository for storage of family study material, Dr A Sisman.

Cancer Research Campaign: £187,254, improving the psychological care of cancer patients, Dr G P Maguire and Dr P Hopwood; £286,198, education and child studies research group, Dr Anne Charlton.

Medical Research Council: £155,647, isolation of a protein complex required for the fusion of endocytic vesicles, Dr P G Woodman.

Science and Engineering Research Council: advanced fellowship, Professor A Donnan, £126,185; an intelligent system for converting scanned documents to symbolic form, Professor C S Xydes and Dr J P Oakley, £95,272; genetic manipulation of energy metabolism in mammalian cells, Dr K M Brindle and Dr A M Fulton, £90,795.

## Sale helps cancer trust

BY JOHN SHAW

A HARLEY Street specialist's pictures benefited a cancer trust named after him when they sold for £22,000 at Phillips in London yesterday.

Ronald Raven, the cancer surgeon, lived and worked in Harley Street before his death at the age of 87 last October. The contents of his five-storey house, expected to make £250,000, sold for £98,502.

Mr Raven trained and became a registrar at St Bartholomew's Hospital and was subsequently a consultant at the Westminster and Royal Marsden Hospitals for 34 years. He was chairman and then president of the Marie Curie Foundation for 40 years.

The proceeds from two of his best pictures, *River Scenes* of Westminster, attributed to William James, the eighteenth century artist, will go to the Ronald Raven Trust. They were bought by a private English collector just above the £20,000 high estimate, bidding against the London trade.

It was the firm's last house contents sale of the season and the last major auction taken by Christopher Hawkins, deputy chairman of Phillips. He started with the firm in 1957 and his retirement will mark the end of a family connection going back five generations.

## Archaeology

## Importance of the earnest volunteer

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

OPPORTUNITIES for volunteers to take part in excavations have "dramatically declined" this year, according to the editor of a leading archaeological magazine.

"Archaeology has become professionalised over the past decade, perhaps overprofessionalised, and as a result opportunities are drying up," says Andrew Selkirk of *Current Archaeology*.

"Almost every day we have a telephone call with the same request: where can I go on a dig?" he says. Even students about to begin university courses in archaeology are finding it hard to get practical experience.

Mr Selkirk believes that the recession, and the resulting lack of new building construction, is a prime reason for the decline in digs. Development funding has become increasingly important, and over the past few years hundreds of professional archaeologists have lost their jobs as developers wait for better times before beginning new building projects.

Mr Selkirk believes that bodies such as English Heri-

tage should take the lead by giving excavations grants only to excavations that will include volunteers. "The future of archaeology depends on having a younger generation, and that younger generation is not being served," he says.

"There are vast numbers of people in all walks of life who acquired an affection for archaeology in the 1960s and 1970s. If we allow this input to lapse, then in twenty or thirty years' time a generation which has experienced the thrill of digging up the past will have ceased to exist."

Opportunities are better abroad than in Britain, he says, but a number of archaeological units have said that they will accept volunteers for digging, dealing with excavated objects, and other activities: the latest issue of *Current Archaeology* gives a list of those in Britain, while a guide to excavations abroad is published separately.

Sources: *Current Archaeology* 129 (9 Nassington Rd., London NW3 2TX). *Archaeology Abroad*, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY.

## July 22 ON THIS DAY 1938



Major Robert Mayo (1890-1957) was the designer of this remarkable composite aircraft, *Mercury*, the float seaplane, was borne on the back of the flying boat, *Maia*; at a given height, *Mercury* was released and went on with enough fuel for several thousand miles. *Mercury* was flown by Air Vice-Marshal D.C.T. Bennett, remembered for the creation of the Pathfinder Force in the Second World War.

## RECORD ATLANTIC FLIGHT

The British "pick-a-back" seaplane *Mercury* alighted on the St Lawrence River at Boucherville, near Montreal, yesterday after making the shortest east-to-west crossing of the North Atlantic on record. She immediately flew on to New York, which she reached two hours later, and yesterday, both in Montreal and New York, the previous day's copies of *The Times* which she carried were on sale.

From Our Own Correspondent  
NEW YORK — The seaplane *Mercury*, completing the second and last lap of her flight here from Foyles, came down on Manhasset Bay at Port Washington, Long Island, at 4.8 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, two hours and nine minutes after leaving Montreal, 330 miles away. She was moored to a buoy until Customs officers could board her, and afterwards taxied to a pier. Her cargo of news reels of the Royal visit to Paris, and several hundred copies of *The Times* and other London newspapers of yesterday were cleared by the Customs in a hangar at the airport and then rushed to New York, an hour's journey by motor-car, where the newspapers were put on sale at prices ranging from 50 cents (2s.) to one dollar each by

newsboys displaying contents bills — a custom new to New York, where lustrous are the ordinary means of advertising such wars.

Captain Bennett, the pilot, and the wireless operator, Mr Cooper, looked tired but happy as they stepped ashore at the airport. "We had little or no sleep," Captain Bennett told the reporters, who crowded round them on the float, but added that, though the trip was tough in places, for a while he had used the automatic pilot. They had encountered rain and light head winds crossing the Atlantic.

Bliss Times Square was not greatly excited this evening when the newsboys cried "Here y'are, yesterday's London papers." In the first hour of the sales only one copy was disposed of. The contents bills read "Picture and Story — King and Queen — State Visit to France," but for some reason they were inadequately displayed. Copies of the papers are being given to officials, including the President and the Mayor of New York, and to New York publishers.

OTTAWA, JULY 21  
The *Mercury* arrived at the airport at Boucherville, near Montreal, at 12.20 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, with 80 gallons left in her tanks. After refuelling she took off for New York at 3 p.m.

The seaplane's arrival was cheered by crowds assembled on the wharf. Part of her cargo of British newspapers, news reels, and photographs was placed in cars and rushed to Montreal.

MONTREAL, JULY 21 — The *Mercury* passed over Cape Bailewyn, the northernmost point of Newfoundland, 13 hours and 29 minutes after parting from the *Maia*, the lower component of the Short-Mayo composite aircraft, off Foyles, Co. Limerick. Her average speed over the Atlantic was just under 150 miles an hour. Her time for the flight from Foyles to Montreal was a little over 20 hours.



## Four hours of tests next spring for 11-year-olds

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE first national curriculum assessment for 11-year-olds will begin next spring with more than four hours of written tests in English, mathematics and science, it was announced yesterday.

John Patten, the education secretary, said the tests would be modelled on those taken last month by 14-year-olds. Most pupils are expected to take pilot tests next May, although assessment will not be compulsory until 1994.

The education department emphasised that the tests would bear no relation to the 11-plus. They would not be designed for selection purposes, and the results would come too late in the school year to influence admissions.

Mr Patten sees testing as a vital part of the government's strategy to raise standards in schools. "Sensible testing of pupils is essential to inform teachers, parents and pupils about how well children are doing at school by highlighting both strengths and weaknesses, showing where help is needed," he said.

Like the tests for seven-year-olds, those for the next age group to be assessed will focus on the basics of reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic. Pupils will sit a choice of three papers, according to their ability. The top level will be set at the standard expected of an average 16-year-old. The easiest papers will be of a similar standard to those taken by seven-year-olds, in order to accommodate children with special educational needs.

"I am determined to ensure that the tests for 11-year-olds are rigorous and rewarding for those who take them," Mr Patten said. He was confident that children would take the tests "in their stride".

The School Examinations and Assessment Council has been asked to produce tests which concentrate on pupils' knowledge and understanding, leaving teachers to assess their practical skills on the basis of ordinary classroom work. Papers will also be available in technology, history and geography to help teachers with their own assessment of pupils. Teacher assessment will be compulsory in technology from 1994 and in history and geography from 1995.

Teaching unions criticised the emphasis on written testing. Doug McAvoy, the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "Teachers will end up teaching to the tests and simply getting children to regurgitate facts. The exclusion of any practical or investigative work will stunt children's educational development and provide parents and secondary schools with information which is too narrow to be any real help."

## Tories deny 'smears'

Continued from page 1

cabinet trying to drop Paddy Ashdown in it even further. Privacy legislation was "a cloak to stop newspapers revealing to voters what the real intentions are of the rich and famous".

Press Complaints Commission members met this morning to discuss whether reporting of the Mellor allegations was in the public interest. The commission, which yesterday received "a handful" of complaints from the public, will also investigate how *The People* obtained allegedly verbatim conversations between Mr Mellor and Antonia de Sancha.

It is understood that Lord MacGregor of Durris, the commission chairman, believes both *The People* and *The Daily Mirror* violated a clause in the industry's code of practice banning newspapers from obtaining information through subterfuge. The commission will issue a statement today. Meanwhile, MPs of all parties demanded that Mr MacKenzie name the minister.

Actress speaks, page 2  
Smith's chance, page 6  
Anthony Howard, page 12



Water colours: a painting by Charles Pears of dockside workers watching the arrival in Southampton of the Queen Mary after her maiden voyage in 1936 which forms part of a permanent gallery devoted to twentieth century sea power that opens today at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich. The selection is part of the museum's collection of paintings, watercolours, models, films, photographs, flags and artefacts, many never seen in public before (John Young writes).

Although warfare is the dominant theme, the exhibits extend to the merchant navy and the great liners and merchant ships that characterised Britain's maritime supremacy for much of the century.

They include two works by two German artists which were handed over as war reparations: one, by Claus Bergen, depicts the commander on the deck of a U-boat in 1917; the other, by Carl Salzman, shows the German fleet in 1905.

Among the most striking pictures is one by Charles Dixon, depicting the surrendered German fleet being escorted into the Firth of Forth in November 1918, the prelude to its subsequent scuttling in Scapa Flow.

The collection also includes 15 works by Norman Wilkinson, who devised the highly successful idea of camouflage merchant vessels during the second world war in his bizarre designs and colours, known as dazzle painting, in order to con-

fuse enemy U-boats. Other well-represented artists include John Worsley, who spent the latter part of the war in a naval officers' prison camp and who created the dummy Albert RN, to deceive the Germans by concealing an escape. The entrance to the gallery is dominated by the reconstructed bows of a Tribal class destroyer, and there are scale mock-ups of the operations room of a Type 22 frigate and the interior of the torpedo room of an A-class submarine.

## UN chief attacks Carrington's Bosnia accord

Continued from page 1

water polo teams will be barred and no Yugoslav contingent will be present at the opening ceremony.

Mr Boutros Ghali's extraordinary letter cast doubts on whether the EC-brokered peace accord, concluded in London by leaders of Bosnia's Serb, Muslim and Croat communities last Friday, can be implemented even if the present fighting stops. The exclusion of any practical or investigative work will stunt children's educational development and provide parents and secondary schools with information which is too narrow to be any real help."

All three Bosnian factions

and the EC asked for UN support in implementing the agreement, and the security council acted swiftly the same day to express its willingness to help. The security council requested Mr Boutros Ghali and his staff to prepare a report by last Monday.

Although UN officials drafted an initial report calling for an additional 1,100 UN personnel to supervise the heavy weapons at 60 locations throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina, it got no further than Mr Boutros Ghali's desk. Instead of the expected report, security council members were astonished to receive a testy letter from the

UN chief — traditionally regarded as the servant of the council — complaining that he had not been consulted.

"The day before its adoption, the likelihood of the agreement was brought to the attention of the UN secretary-general by the EC official conducting the talks by telephone from London," the UN chief wrote. "The UN official who expressed the information expressed serious misgivings about the mandate which it was proposed to entrust to the UN protection force (UNPROFOR). Early on Friday, I received a call from Lord Carrington who informed me of the agreement reached. I

expressed my view that it was not realistic in respect of the responsibilities envisaged for UNPROFOR. He did not disagree."

Mr Boutros Ghali said he was too busy with other UN business last Friday to bring his objections to the attention of the security council before it endorsed the envisaged UN role later in the day. But he said UN officials did inform Sir David Hannay, Britain's ambassador at the United Nations, of the secretary-general's "serious reservations".

The council, eager to act quickly in support of the peace agreement, went ahead and issued a statement prom-

ising to make arrangements to place the heavy weaponry under UN supervision. "I now find myself in the awkward position of having to advise the security council on the implementation of a mandate behind which the council has already thrown its political support," Mr Boutros Ghali wrote. Despite his complaints, the secretary-general said he would deliver the report requested by the security council on the planned increase in the UN presence but with a warning that the operation was not viable.

Croatia releases, page 10

## Lamont digs in on public spending

Continued from page 1  
relief in government circles yesterday when the Treasury's action in cutting the rate offered on its National Savings First Option Bond appeared to pay off. The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society is returning its mortgage to 10.75 per cent after a week at 10.99 per cent.

The Treasury has set its sights on some long-term investment programmes, including housing and roads. Ministers will be told that extra spending to fulfil manifesto pledges will be no guarantee of their success.

Mr Lamont, speaking to businessmen in Westminster, said that inflation was the enemy of those least able to defend themselves, such as pensioners on fixed incomes, and eroded business competitiveness.

The prime minister is backing the Treasury's efforts to hold to next year's spending total of some £244.5 billion.

In addition to the interest rate reversal by the Cheltenham & Gloucester, the Alliance & Leicester Building Society — which had been expected yesterday to announce a similar increase in its mortgage rate — said that it would not. It would, though, continue to review its rates.

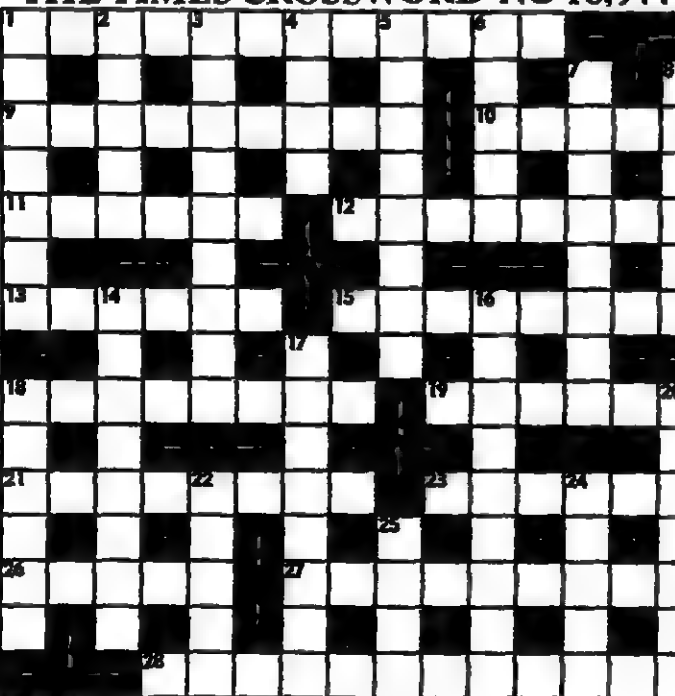
Societies had said they could not compete with the 7.75 per cent net rate being paid by the bond without raising mortgage rates.

The new rate of 7.25 per cent net, available since yesterday lunchtime, is still competitive and lenders have not ruled out the need to increase mortgage rates to stop money flowing out of their savings accounts. Building societies suffered a net outflow of £314 million in June before the new bond was launched. Other National Savings products had already been putting societies under pressure and contributed to the second worst monthly outflow since records began.

In the first six months, building society net receipts were at an all time low of £343 million compared with £4.6 billion for the same period last year. The last outflow was in March when savers withdrew £172 million more than they invested. Much of this went to National Savings.

Leading article, page 13

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,977



- ACROSS**
- 1 Frightful prude in villa near Bootle? (12)
  - 9 "Like the bloodless snow on Linden?" No marks (9)
  - 10 Musical lexicographer in leafy road (5)
  - 11 Half of biter — that's for the angler's guide (6)
  - 12 "The Mysterious Death of the Carrier in W.I." (8)
  - 13 Compete again with wife in critical examination (6)
  - 14 Bliss, possibly, for fellow model riding mare (8)
  - 15 Chaplain's office in a government building (8)
  - 19 Witness at police station sounding dramatic (6)
  - 21 Application from union leader held by constables covering East End (8)
  - 23 Lump requiring young woman to have surgery (6)
  - 26 Wrongdoing is a mistake! (5)
  - 27 Giving support to woman in Yemeni city church (9)
  - 28 Not enough food for diminutive people (5,7)
- DOWN**
- 1 One loafing around university is less likely to succeed (7)
  - 2 Lively musical student out east (5)
  - 3 Undistinguished state of cabin, say, in English vessel (9)
  - 4 Chaldean birthplace of the French language? (4)
  - 5 Post pound, not penny, for meal (8)
  - 6 Help to clothe many beginning to get cold (5)
  - 7 Working relation's reprehensible behaviour (6-2)
  - 8 The compiler may be English or Irish (6)
  - 14 Vehicle security for the forward-looking (8)
  - 16 Devout woman upset about curate's first symbolic representation (9)
  - 17 President supports member, being theoretical rather than practical (8)
  - 18 Cleaned a bike without parking (6)
  - 20 A symbol of mourning when gas covers the battlefield (7)
  - 22 Lighter carried by an admiral (5)
  - 24 Strange jargon from the Devil in Goethe's *Faust* (5)
  - 25 Smart politician here in ancient Rome (4)

Solution to Puzzle No 18,976

FOR THE BEST LEAP  
O I L Y S I  
A B O V E B A R D A C M E  
G M R K E R A D R  
S O G H T H I P  
U N S E L F I S H A M O U R  
S C Y N E B I D  
P R I M P V E R D I G R I S  
T L H E R L E S  
C A L L I G R A P H I C  
J A C S R T M C  
S A T H V I N E G A R I S H  
U O C E A T T A  
S P I R Y I N A N Y V E I N T

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 27 per cent of the competitors at the 1992 Bristol regional final of The Times InterCity Crossword Championship.

Concise Crossword, page 11  
Life & Times

## WORD WATCH

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?  
By Philip Howard

**PROBOSCIDE**  
a. Having a long nose  
b. Jest before dawn  
c. Palm-tree brandy

**FOMA**  
a. Rice bread  
b. Nymph of the breaking surf  
c. Hairless struts

**DIMIDATE**  
a. Cat in the middle  
b. A furred companion  
c. Midweek

**WOMPSTER**  
a. Cross between wombat and kangaroo  
b. A caressing God-bulldozer  
c. Last coach in a goods train

Answers on page 14

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadwork information, 24 hours a day, dial 0835 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE

C London (within N & S Circs) 731  
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732  
M-ways/roads M1-Cardiff 733  
M-ways/roads Cardiff-T-M23 734  
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735  
M25 London Orbital only 736

National motorways 737  
West Country 738  
Wales 739  
East Anglia 740  
North-west England 742  
North-east England 743  
Scotland 744  
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

## YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c. cloud, f. rain, s. rain, a. sun.

**LIGHTING-UP TIMES**  
London 9.03 pm to 5.12 am  
Bristol 9.13 pm to 5.21 am  
Edinburgh 9.26 pm to 5.01 am  
Manchester 9.21 pm to 5.10 am  
Perthshire 9.19 pm to 5.39 am

Sun rises: 5.10 am  
Moon sets: 9.03 pm  
Moon rises: 1.39 pm  
Last quarter 11.12 pm

Today's pollen count forecast is MODERATE SELDANE.  
A major advance to hayfever treatment.

## WEATHER

England, Wales and much of Scotland will have a largely dry day with some sunny spells, although thicker cloud will slowly encroach into western and northern regions. Over Northern Ireland and parts of western and northern Scotland patchy rain is expected during the morning becoming heavier in the west by evening, with increasing southwesterly winds. Outlook: the band of cloud and rain will reach all parts, followed by clearer weather.

**MODAY:** 1-4 thunder; 5-6 drizzle; 7-9 fog; 10-11 sun; 12-13 rain; 14-15 sun; 16-17 rain; 18-19 sun; 20-21 rain; 22-23 sun; 24-25 rain; 26-27 sun; 28-29 rain; 30-31 sun.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Sea
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0

denotes figures are latest available

## LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 23C (73F); min 6pm to 6am, 16C (61F); Humidity: 50%; Wind: 11.2 mph; Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 1.31in; Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 5.8hr; Bar: mean sea level, 6pm, 1,012.5 millibars, rising; 1,000 millibars = 29.92in.

## TOURIST RATES

Area	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

## WEATHER

England, Wales and much of Scotland will have a largely dry day with some sunny spells, although thicker cloud will slowly encroach into western and northern regions. Over Northern Ireland and parts of western and northern Scotland patchy rain is expected during the morning becoming heavier in the west by evening, with increasing southwesterly winds. Outlook: the band of cloud and rain will reach all parts, followed by clearer weather.

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Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Sea
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0

denotes figures are latest available

## LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 23C (73F); min 6pm to 6am, 16C (61F); Humidity: 50%; Wind: 11.2 mph; Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 1.31in; Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 5.8hr; Bar: mean sea level, 6pm, 1,012.5 millibars, rising; 1,000 millibars = 29.92in.

## TOURIST RATES

Area	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Australia	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

## WEATHER

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Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Sea
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Abertawe	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0

denotes figures are latest available

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# BUSINESS TIMES

WEDNESDAY JULY 22 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

SPORT  
23-26

Deal with American loss maker will create world's biggest airline alliance

## British Airways takes \$750m stake in USAir

By ROSS TYEMAN AND HARVEY ELLIOTT

BRITISH Airways is to buy a 44 per cent stake in USAir Group, the American internal carrier, for \$750 million, creating the world's biggest airline alliance.

With more than 78 million passengers a year, the BA partnership will outrank American Airlines and Delta, currently the world's two biggest carriers. The deal will also give BA its long-sought American domestic partner. Although it flies a handful of transatlantic routes, USAir is a huge carrier, with a route network focused on the American east coast cities, which rank among BA's busiest American destinations.

Lord King of Warrnaby, BA chairman, who flew to Washington at the end of last week to sign the agreement, said the deal was "not a gamble. We would not have gone in for it if it was. Instead, it is an opportunity for us. USAir makes an ideal partner for us

and our operations fit together neatly giving us access to 40 per cent of the world's air travellers while we bring them the rest of the world."

The deal puts BA well on the path to becoming the world's first global airline. Sir Colin Marshall, BA's deputy chairman and chief executive, acknowledged that a Pacific partner would be sought if markets there were liberalised enough to make that possible.

USAir is America's fourth largest airline, carrying 55 million passengers a year on 439 aircraft, with an average age of only nine years. BA carries 23 million passengers a year on 230 aircraft, which are typically ten years old. The average BA passenger travels further, on a network of 151 destinations worldwide.

## Link expected to win regulators' approval

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

THE BA-USAir link is expected to gain approval from US government authorities, which are considering an open-skies policy allowing European airlines to fly into any American city.

Foreign investment in American operators has been encouraged by the transport department in Washington. In the past two years as American carriers have collapsed amid price wars and shrinking passenger traffic.

The combined group will gain a strong presence on America's east coast where USAir owns a 40 per cent stake in the Boston-New York-Washington commuter shuttle with an option to buy it outright in less than five years, at which time BA will be able to convert its stake into USAir ordinary shares. The two will now continue talks with the bankrupt Trans World Airlines to buy some of its assets.

David Lockwood, finance

director of Global Aviation, the airline consultants, said: "This is a good marriage and the only TWA asset which could be of use to them might be the hub at St Louis. I think the big American carriers will oppose the alliance, but not successfully."

Within hours of the news, Stephen Wolf, chairman and chief executive of United Airlines, urged President Bush to use the approval of the BA-USAir link as a lever to open up greater access for American operators to the UK.

USAir is due to announce its second-quarter figures within the next couple of days, which are likely to show losses of between \$75 million and \$100 million.

Earlier this year, USAir scaled down its operations in California, closed a hub in Dayton, Ohio, laid off 7,000 employees and sought \$280 million worth of concessions from remaining employees.

lotie and Pittsburgh. Its flights into Gatwick will be taken over by BA. They will continue to be operated by USAir staff on USAir aircraft. But the aircraft are expected to be the first to sport a common livery.

A committee is to be set up to integrate the airlines and to ensure that USAir's 55.6 million passengers, who fly on 5,082 daily departures to 231 cities throughout America, are "plugged into" BA's transatlantic operations.

Financial arrangements have been structured to minimise the risk of objections from regulators on each side of the Atlantic whose approval is necessary. They are also designed to insulate BA from USAir's losses until profitability in the American domestic airline market improves.

The BA holding will take the form of new convertible preferred shares issued by the loss-making American carrier.

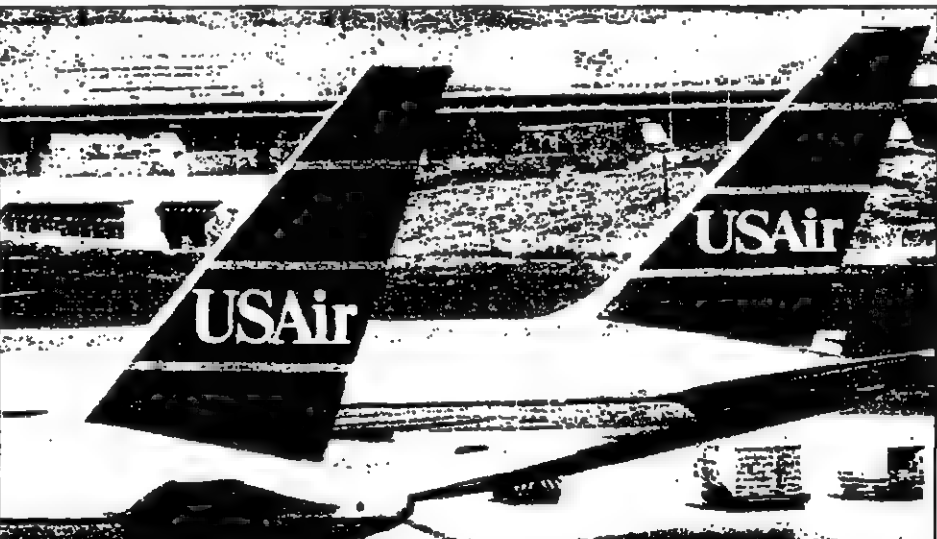
To stay within the 25 per cent limit on foreign voting control in American airlines enshrined in US legislation, BA will have only 21 per cent of the votes. Four per cent of votes are already held by foreigners. However, BA will have the right to increase its voting stake if other foreigners sell. It will also have the right to acquire additional shares to maintain its overall holding at 44 per cent. Even though BA has \$900 million on deposit, the company will borrow, in dollars, to buy the USAir preferred shares.

Sir Colin said there would be no dilution of BA's earnings. However, the company's gearing will rise about 24 per cent to 97 per cent.

Together, the companies will have annual revenues of more than \$9 billion, \$8 billion of which will meet operating costs. USAir has lost money in each of the past three years. During the calendar year 1991, it lost \$415 million before tax. BA has remained one of the world's most profitable airlines, making profits of \$285 million, before tax, in the year to March 31.

Boeing talks, page 18  
Comment, page 21

Eyeing the Pacific: Sir Colin Marshall, BA deputy chairman and chief executive



Routes takeover: USAir's Gatwick flights may be the first with a common livery

## SB drugs produce healthy figures

By MICHAEL TATE  
CITY EDITOR

A 16 PER CENT growth rate in pharmaceutical sales fired SmithKline Beecham to pre-tax profits of £532 million in the first half of 1992, a 10 per cent rise on the previous year. Robert Bauman, the chief executive, said the group was well on target to meet financial expectations for this year.

The increased profits yielded earnings of 12.9p a share against 11.6p a year ago, and shareholders will receive a second interim dividend of 2.075p a share, giving them 4.15p so far this year, against 3.75p last time.

Pharmaceutical profits improved by 9 per cent, to £394 million, after a heavier marketing spend trimmed margins from 26.8 per cent to 25.6 per cent. New products such as Relafen, the anti-arthritis medicine introduced to America this February, Seraxat, the anti-depressant launched in the UK 16 months ago, and Kytril, which in May became the first treatment for cancer therapy side-effects to sell into Japan, all made big demands on the marketing budget.

SB's best-known drug, Tagamet, now in the late summer of its life saw a 2 per cent decline in sales, as expected, but Augmentin, the new anti-biotic "blockbuster" increased sales by 24 per cent over the second quarter, and is on line for a place in the \$1 billion-a-year sales club by the end of the year.

SB shares, caught up to some extent in the backwash of the Wellcome share sale in recent weeks, and back from a peak of more than 480p this year, improved by 13.5p yesterday, to 457p.

Consumer brands increased profits from £93 million to £100 million, but the company made no official comment on plans to dispose of its personal care division, including Brylcreem, Vaseline and other brand names, in return for more over-the-counter medicines. "It is still very early days," a company spokesman said.

The group's clinical laboratories saw a 17 per cent advance to £35 million, as increasing numbers of American companies ask for regular employee screenings, but the animal health divisions saw a 16 per cent decline to £23 million in weak world markets.

Tempos, page 20

### TODAY IN BUSINESS

#### BAD LOANS



Banks are learning to live with the bad loans they made in the easy-money eighties, which will cost them £5 billion this year, writes Neil Bennett Page 21

#### POUNDED

The pound struggled on the foreign exchange markets due to economic worries and renewed support for the dollar Page 19

#### COAL FACE

### British Coal

British Coal's Kellingley pit in Yorkshire, earmarked for privatisation, is threatened with heavy job cuts Page 19

#### OUT OF WORK

The OECD says unemployment in the developed world will reach 30 million next year, the worst for almost a decade Page 18

#### OUT OF LUCK



Disident Lloyd's names have failed to win support for a move to oust the insurance market's ruling council Page 19

JS dollar  
1.9085 (-0.0095)  
German mark  
2.8391 (-0.0053)  
Exchange index  
31.9 (-0.3)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share  
1831.0 (+6.9)  
FT-SE 100  
2415.6 (+11.9)  
New York Dow Jones  
3321.91 (+18.91)  
Tokyo Nikkei Avg  
16002.41 (+117.93)

#### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%  
3-month Interbank: 10%  
3-month eligible bills: 9%  
US: Prime Rate: 8%  
Federal Funds: 3 1/4%  
3-month Treasury Bill: 3.25-3.18%  
30-year bonds: 10 1/2%-10 3/4%

London: New York:  
£: \$1.9104  
£: \$1.9090  
£: DM2.8417  
£: DM1.4885  
£: Sfr2.5274  
£: Sfr1.3237  
£: FFs 5.055  
£: FFs 125.28  
£: Yen 228.38  
£: Yen 125.28  
£: Index: 91.9  
£: Index: 80.5  
ECU: 20.71638  
SDR: 20.748568  
£: ECU1.35989  
£: SDR1.35984  
London Forex market close

#### GOLD

London Fixing:  
AM \$357.40 PM \$358.10  
Close \$357.70-358.20  
£187.30-187.50  
New York:  
Comex \$358.05-358.55

#### NORTH SEA

Brent (Aug) ..... \$20.15/bbl (\$20.20)

#### RETAIL

RPI: 139.3 June (1987=100)  
\* Denotes midday trading price

## Greenspan sees American recovery gathering pace

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

ALAN Greenspan, chairman of America's Federal Reserve Board, chose his words carefully when addressing the Senate banking committee yesterday, in an attempt to reinforce confidence in the recovery crucial to President Bush's re-election.

But Mr Greenspan tempered comments about recovery gaining momentum soon with a signal to financial markets that the Fed had completed its monetary easing. Although the interest rate cuts over the past year had failed to secure the robust recovery the Bush administration had been seeking, Mr Greenspan said it was acceptable for the key M2 aggregate to undershoot its target range.

The Fed was active in the intervention on Monday to stop the dollar falling below its record low of DM1.4430.

This suggested that Mr Greenspan, in contrast to the Bush administration, is concerned about dollar weakness.

After his testimony yesterday, the dollar eased more than a penny to DM1.4885 in New York on profit-taking. Dealers appeared to be cautiously testing the downside of



Greenspan: cautious

the dollar, having been caught unaware by the central bank action on Monday.

Mr Greenspan said America's hesitant recovery should soon gather pace, with lower inflation underpinning the upturn. He rejected suggestions that the Fed had been too slow to cut interest rates to ensure recovery, pointing out that the discount rate, at 3 per cent, was the lowest for 29 years.

He said the economy would enjoy a modest pick-up, pushing down the unemployment rate. The Fed expects GDP growth of 2.5-2.75 per cent this year, rising to 2.75-3 per cent next. The unemployment rate is expected to fall from between 7.25 and 7.5 per cent this year to 6.5-7 per cent next.

Consumer gloom, page 19  
Comment, page 21

## Reuters buys balance of Visnews equity

By COLIN CAMPBELL

REUTERS Holdings is to buy out the minority shareholders in Visnews. The move, involving millions of pounds, significantly expands its role in international television.

Reuters, with 51 per cent of Visnews, has signed a ten-year television partnership with America's National Broadcasting Company (NBC) to buy its 37.75 per cent stake in Visnews for cash. It has also agreed in principle to buy the BBC's 11.25 per cent stake.

Peter Job, chairman of Visnews and chief executive of Reuters, said the joint venture could explore new opportunities in global television. The parties had been talking "for some months", he added.

Visnews has 34 bureaux worldwide and employs 454 staff, of whom 183 are involved in newsgathering. Reuters has 118 reporting bureaux and 1,100 reporters and

photographers worldwide. Mark Wood, Reuters' editor-in-chief, said Visnews' turnover had grown from £10 million in 1981 to £60 million in 1991.

Reuters said the cost of the transactions was a "private matter between the parties", but suggested that, with planned capital investment, millions of pounds would be involved.

Reuters also announced pre-tax profits of £187.4 million (£170.1 million) for the six months to end-June and raised its interim dividend from 4.7p to 5.3p a share.

Michael Green, chairman of Carlton Communications, is made a non-executive director, replacing Andrew Knight, executive chairman of News International, who asked to be released from the board.

Tempos, page 20

## Eau dear, EC goes soft on competition policy

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU  
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN competition policy has given the impression of softening recently. Today, the European Commission is expected to clear Nestlé's £15.3 billion takeover of Perrier, a controversial deal that is going to lead to a concentration in the French market for mineral water.

This decision will follow close on the heels of two other competition investigations involving French companies. Curiously, each time the decision was a resounding "oui". They were the French government's state aid scheme for Bull, the computer maker, and the 8.8 per cent stake taken by Banque Nationale de Paris in Air France. Both

are state holdings. It may, of course, be only coincidence and the various schemes did not contravene competition law. More likely, though, impossible to prove, the lenience may be related to the French referendum on Maastricht in September and the need not to upset French voters, who regard the notion of a competition policy as absurd.

The commission has not always been so understanding of French national sensitivities. France reacted with incredulity to some of the earlier decisions by Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner, such as the blocking of the takeover of Havilland, the regional aircraft maker, by a Franco-Italian consortium, and, two years ago, the decision to force Renault to repay part of illegal

aid it had received from the French government. Those were the days when the commission was regarded as tough. So, if someone out there wants to launch a nasty mega bid to create a pan European monopoly, this is probably not a bad time.

Today's expected clearance of Nestlé's takeover is more extraordinary because the commission said last month that "the merger of Nestlé and Perrier is a significant obstacle to the maintenance of effective competition in the French market".

What is likely to have happened is that the commission has struck a deal with Nestlé, under which the Swiss food giant undertakes to sell some minor mineral water brands, such as Saint-Yorre. There is speculation that Nestlé may have to sell as many as

eight brands. But critics will hold against this the fact that the commission's essential objection — of Nestlé and BSN operating a cosy duopoly — will remain.

Sylvain Massot, French security analyst at Morgan Stanley, said both mineral water companies would have more than 30 per cent of the market. He calculates BSN's share at 31 per cent, which includes Evian, the market leader, and Volvic, the Perrier-owned brand, which it buys from Nestlé. Nestlé, he said, would have between 30 and 37 per cent, depending on the agreement with the commission.

Meanwhile, if European competition policy continues in its softness, the chances are that the commission may soon face pressure to bust another monopoly: its own.

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TS22/1/92



# Jobless toll prompts call for reforms

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

**THE Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is calling for substantial labour market reforms, as unemployment in OECD countries is forecast to rise to the highest since 1983.**

In this year's OECD *Employment Outlook*, the Paris-based organisation forecasts a rise in unemployment in the OECD area to 30 million, or 7.5 per cent of the workforce. In 1983, unemployment was 31 million, or 8.5 per cent. There will be no fall in the number of jobless until "well into 1993" at the earliest.

The OECD said that "in many member countries, eight years of sustained expansion failed to lower the unemployment rate significantly". The organisation is especially concerned about the rise in long-term unemployment, which is at historically high levels and which is forecast to rise again in the aftermath of the recession. Unemployment was an economic waste and was beginning to threaten the social cohesion, the OECD said.

The OECD is calling for a rethink on policy to improve labour market flexibility. "One way governments influence the job matching process is through systems of regulations on hiring and separations. If these are too restrictive, employers may become overly cautious about taking on new staff, especially from the ranks of the unemployed or those with lower levels of skills or

experience," the report said. Further important policy areas were education and training of the unemployed.

The organisation said that "fighting unemployment is a top priority for OECD countries. The reform of labour markets is crucial for progress... Determined action now in pressing ahead with structural reforms must form the basis of the long-term strategy"

The 284-page report also claimed that "non-employment" rises, which measures the percentage of people who do not participate in the workforce, remained high. It averaged almost 50 per cent for women and 25 per cent for men during the 1980s, "representing a considerable waste of employment potential".

The report also noted a sharp decline in the labour force participation of those aged over 55. The OECD is urging governments to review pension and retirement policy "in order to give older people greater flexibility and help them remain in contact with the labour market".

One of the few positive aspects highlighted by the report was the increased number of self-employed. "After long-term decline, self-employment has grown to one in eight of the non-agricultural workforce, reflecting not only the development of entrepreneurship but also structural changes in labour market."



**Seeing signs of recovery:** Kevin O'Keeffe of Northumbrian Fine Foods yesterday

## Profits crumble at biscuit group

**BY PHILIP PANGALOS**

**NORTHUMBRIAN** Fine Foods is passing its final dividend after tough trading conditions and exceptional costs took their toll on the USM-quoted biscuit and snack maker.

**Pre-tax profits slumped 41.4 per cent to £154,645 in the year to end-March, against £263,940 last time. Profits were hampered by a £550,000 exceptional charge, which included stock write-offs and a £225,000 payoff relating to the departure of Richard Adams, chief execu-**

tive, after 22 years with the company he founded.

Kevin O'Keeffe, non-executive chairman, said the company had experienced "a year of self-inflicted wounds". Adverse market conditions and a depleted sales force are blamed for lower than expected sales in the last few months of the year. Turnover, boosted by acquisitions and organic growth, advanced to £16.7 million (R 62 million).

The company's acquisition of the John J Lees confectionery business last year resulted in asset value write-offs totalling £1.5 million. Mr O'Keeffe

said: "We are now seeing signs of recovery." He said the company was over the worst with a strengthened management team and was back in profit after a loss

John Gibson, finance director, was appointed acting chief executive after Mr Adams' departure. The company is still seeking a permanent chief executive.

Earnings per share rose to 0.97p (0.51p). The absence of a final payout leaves the total dividend at 0.75p (1.75p) for the year. Last time's final payout was 1p.

## Boeing in talks on new 737

**FROM REUTER  
IN SEATTLE**

BOEING is talking to customers about a stretch version of its 737 medium-range aircraft, which, some analysts said, may compete better with Airbus Industrie's A320 jetliner. Two weeks ago, UAL Corporation's United Airlines, which had been heading towards an all-Boeing fleet, agreed instead to lease 50 A320s from Airbus and took an option on 50 more.

But, some Wall Street analysts said, if Boeing introduces a sixth 737 model in the late 1990s with greater range and speed, even United, America's second-largest airline, might return its Airbus jets in exchange for Boeings.

Boeing's 737 has been the best-selling commercial aircraft in the jet age, with more than 2,250 of various updated versions of the 100 to 170-seat aircraft delivered since it was introduced 25 years ago. Analysts noted that Airbus was promoting the A320 as having greater range and thus more than Boeing's 737-400 jets.

Boeing insisted that the 777-400 has performance and cost-of-operation advantages over its competition, saying that Airbus simply exceeded Boeing's own favourable offer.

Some analysts believe that the short-term, walk-away provisions thought to be included in the Airbus deal might eventually be to Boeing's advantage. They said a new 737 would have greater speed and range. Bill Whitlow, an analyst at Pacific Crest Securities, said: "That could bluntnet United's willingness to exercise the option on the other 50 Airbus."

## Too late for satellite rivals to cover games

THE European Commission has conceded that it is too late to open up the Barcelona Olympics to competing satellite television companies, effectively denying British satellite viewers a greater choice during the games. The commission, following complaints from Screensport, the leading satellite channel, is trying to find an acceptable way of controlling the European Broadcasting Union, which groups all the EC's major public broadcasters and effectively holds a monopoly over coverage of Europe's big sports events. The EBU holds a 50 per cent stake in Screensport's rival, Eurosport, which it will provide with 24-hour footage during the games.

The commission and Screensport lawyers admit it is too late to try to get Screensport access to the games on an equal footing. Screensport's lawyers hope for a ruling curbing the EBU's power in October.

## St Modwen edges up

**ST MODWEN** Properties, the Midlands property group, has reported marginally higher profits of £1.04 million for the six months to end-May. Profits earned on the sale of development properties fell by half to £7.32 million. The company's investment portfolio is now producing an annual rent roll of £7.1 million and in the half year generated income of £3.2 million. Interest charges fell from £3.2 million to £2.5 million. As normal, there is no interim dividend.

## BP given gas go-ahead

**BRITISH** Petroleum has received government approval for development of the Hyde gas field in the southern North Sea and the transfer of 45 per cent of the field licence to Statoil of Norway. The field, 40 miles east of Humberstone, was discovered in 1982. BP predicts that 133 billion cubic feet of gas will be recovered over 22 years. Production is due to start in October 1993. BP and Statoil have an alliance in gas marketing in the UK, technical research and some exploration.

## Radius pegs payout

**PHIL Kelly**, the chief executive of **Rodins**, feels that the computer systems and maintenance supplier is over the worst and is cautiously optimistic about prospects. As a result, the USM company is maintaining its interim dividend at 0.9p despite a 34 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £525,000 in the six months to end-May on turnover down from £14.7 million to £12 million. Earnings per share fell to 1p, down from 1.7p last time.

[illegible]



# Retail sales data likely to confirm consumer gloom

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT figures are today expected to show retail sales flat for last month, confirming City fears that the decline in confidence this summer is killing off hopes of a consumer-led recovery.

The data are unlikely to improve market sentiment for the pound, which yesterday shed just over half a penny to DM2.8391 at the London close. In quiet trading, after central bank support for the dollar on Monday, sterling slipped almost a cent to \$1.9085 and was 0.3 down on its trade-weighted index at 91.4.

A 0.3 per cent rise in retail sales in May gave a buoyant-looking 2.1 per cent year-on-year increase. But this figure was flattened by a weak May

1991. Forecasts for June centre on unchanged sales, which would slow the annual growth rate to about 0.5 per cent.

A gloomy Confederation of British Industry survey pointed to a renewed fall in year-on-year retail sales last month. The report noted that the small boost in sales in the two months after the election appeared to have faded out.

Two confidence surveys published yesterday did nothing to alleviate the gloom. A Gallup survey, conducted in the first two weeks of July, showed that 30 per cent of respondents expected the economic situation in Britain to improve, while 31 per cent expected things to worsen.

The balance of minus 1 per cent was the worst recorded since February. More alarmingly, the negative balance in July compares with a positive balance of 13 per cent in June and 30 per cent in May. The drop in the latest two months is the steepest reported for more than a decade.

On household finances, the pessimists match the optimists. But this represents a deterioration in confidence since June and the worst monthly showing since August. Consumers' view of inflation prospects also give rise to concern, with 19 per cent of respondents expecting inflation to be higher in 12 months, the highest percentage since January.

Consensus Research International and Kidsons Impey, the chartered accountants, find in their latest survey of the small business sector in England and Scotland that confidence in economic recovery has dropped dramatically from 69 per cent in April to only 38 per cent this month.

Peter Douglas, national managing partner of Kidsons Impey, said small and medium-sized businesses, hopeful of upturn three months ago, were now sharing the views of big business. "Low business confidence, low consumer demand, and a return to the 'save it, don't spend it' philosophy are badly dampening the entrepreneurial spirit and dynamism of the small business sector," he said.

The survey finds that only one firm in six expects a recovery over the next quarter, compared with the 40 per cent expecting an upturn in the last survey in April. Respondents are nevertheless pinning their hopes for recovery primarily on increased consumer demand, with lower interest rates seen as the second most important factor. Small and medium-sized businesses are defined as having an annual turnover of up to £30 million.

Trade figures out today are expected to show the deficit widening in June to about £1 billion from an £845 million shortfall in May, reflecting the faster growth in imports. With domestic confidence in retreat and overseas demand faltering, economists believe both imports and exports may have weakened in June.

Revisions to invisible earnings data last month brought a sharp lowering of the traditional surplus from trade in services. This fell to £450 million in the first quarter of this year from £1.1 billion the previous quarter. The projected surplus for the second quarter is £600 million, suggesting the current account deficit will widen to £800 million in June from £645 million in May.



Feeling the squeeze: Steve Kendall, joint managing director, blames the recession for a near-50 per cent slide in profits

## CMA profit under the hammer

By PHILIP PANGALOS

REDUCED activity at auction centres took its toll of first-half profits at Central Motor Auctions, as many companies delayed changing their car fleets in the current tough climate.

The USM-quoted company is Europe's largest independent motor vehicle auction group and claims to hold the number two position in the United Kingdom behind ADT's British Car Auctions.

Steve Kendall, joint managing director, blames the recessionary squeeze for a 49.8 per cent slide in pre-tax profits to £432,000 in the half-year to end-April, down from £861,000 last time. Auction proceeds fell by 2 per cent to £153 million in the half year.

On a brighter note, Mr Kendall says CMA has taken market share and is seeing "patchy" signs of recovery as well as better operating margins following improved cost efficiencies.

"June was a good month; the indicators were starting to show that things were improving," he added.

CMA has also recently bought a 5.5 acre car storage and distribution depot next to the M25 motorway, north of London, for about £850,000.

There was an exceptional credit of £165,000, relating to a surplus on a property disposal.

Earnings fell to 2.7p a share, down from 5.1p. The interim dividend is maintained at 1p a share.

The shares eased 5p to 125p.

## National Australia ready to buy Bank of New Zealand

By OUR CITY STAFF

NATIONAL Australia Bank, which owns the Clydesdale, Northern and Yorkshire banks in Britain, intends to take over the state-controlled Bank of New Zealand, the largest bank in the country, for more than £400 million.

The conservative New Zealand government and previous labour governments have tried for the past five years to sell BNZ. In that time, it has been twice bailed out, largely because of its exposure to corporate failures. Its restructuring is said to be almost complete now.

BNZ suffered a NZ\$940.8 million (£265 million) loss in the year to March 1989, the largest banking loss in New Zealand history. BNZ, however, reported an after-tax profit of NZ\$171.1 million for the year to March 1992 and had

assets of NZ\$19.81 billion. NAB said it would pay NZ\$1.48 billion for BNZ subject to an expected eight-week due diligence study of BNZ's finances, and providing that 90 per cent of BNZ shareholders accept.

It is thought that the New Zealand government, which owns 58 per cent of BNZ, and Fay, Richwhite, a merchant bank, which has 27 per cent, would be relieved that the negotiations had concluded. The remaining 15 per cent of BNZ is owned by the public. Fay, Richwhite and the government, which said it would sell the bank when it took over in 1990, said they would accept the NAB offer of NZ\$0.80 a share.

Jim Bolger, the prime minister, welcoming the offer, said the government would receive

about NZ\$850 million from the sale, which would go towards paying off some of New Zealand's NZ\$2.3 billion foreign debt. NAB's New Zealand operations have assets of NZ\$2.3 billion compared with BNZ's NZ\$19.6 billion. NAB has worldwide assets of NZ\$129 billion.

NAB shares in Australia rose 7 Australian cents to A\$7.83 (\$5.84) on the news, although Standard & Poor's credit rating agency put NAB on creditwatch with negative implications. But the agency said the proposed acquisition had a number of positive features for National Australia and the most likely outcome would be that the bank's ratings would be affirmed.

BNZ shares dropped slightly while Fay, Richwhite was up 4 cents to NZ\$0.68.

## ASH makes American switch

AUTOMATED Security (Holdings) is to move the listing of its American shares (ADRs) to the New York Stock Exchange from the smaller Nasdaq market, where they were the victim of a series of bear raids. Tom Buffet, the chairman, said restrictions on short selling of shares on the Big Board would make it more difficult for bear raiders to hit the company's rating.

ASH's pre-tax profits fell to £6.5 million in the six months to end May (£13.9 million). The figure was struck after rationalisation costs of £4 million. Profits before interest and exceptional items were down only 10 per cent to £19.5 million on sales of £96.7 million, almost unchanged.

The interim dividend rises 9 per cent to 2.25p, partly because of the expected £80 million extraordinary profit on the £150 million sale of the loss-prevention division.

Tempos, page 20

## Council of Lloyd's receives support

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE Association of Lloyd's Members, a body representing more than 9,000 Lloyd's names, has come out in full support of the ruling Council of Lloyd's ahead of next Monday's extraordinary meeting.

The meeting was originally requisitioned by a group of dissident names who tabled a series of resolutions amounting to a motion of no confidence in the existing Council. Two motions expressing confidence in the Council, including one by the ALM, were later added to the agenda.

In a letter posted on Monday, the ALM has urged its members to rally behind the Lloyd's leadership and reject the critical motions. According to the letter, the critical resolutions should not be supported, because "collectively they might be seen as qualifying members' confidence in the Council, which would negate or delay all the changes now being made to improve the operations of Lloyd's."

The ALM is particularly dismissive of one resolution calling for a recent £500 solvency levy on names to be abandoned. According to the ALM this resolution "is plainly prejudicial to Lloyd's commercial standing and if implemented would place Lloyd's status as a solvent insurer at risk — to the detriment of everyone with a continuing interest in the Lloyd's market."

The other resolutions call for the closure of all old open years by the end of 1992, full disclosure of Council members' interests in Lloyd's agency and broking firms, and full co-operation by the Council

with all groups representing names.

The ALM, which is chaired by Neil Shaw, the Tate & Lyle chairman, has been highly critical of the senior management of Lloyd's in the past but has now decided that the best course for the market is to implement the changes recommended in the Rowland, Walker and Morse reports. However, the ALM's position has been attacked by hardline dissidents who accuse it of supporting the status quo at Lloyd's and not representing the interests of its members.

Names have also been asked to reject the critical motions in a letter from David Coleridge, the chairman of Lloyd's. In the letter he described the arguments used in the motions as "specious" and said they should be "firmly rejected".

All the resolutions to be debated at Monday's meeting will be the subject of a postal ballot of all Lloyd's names.

Letters, page 21



Shaw: backs changes

## Heseltine seeks credits for trade mission to China

By ROSS TIERMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine, president of the Board of Trade, is to lead a trade mission to China this autumn, ending three years of strained political relations since the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Trade department officials hope Mr Heseltine will be able to offer China several hundred million pounds of credits to encourage the Chinese to buy goods and services from British companies.

Talks are under way between the department and Treasury over availability of funds for trade credits.

Two British concessional loans, worth about £500 mil-

lion in total, have been exhausted.

The Heseltine mission is likely to include many of Britain's most senior industrialists and is a further sign of determination at the DTI to encourage industry to cash in on the rising prosperity of the fast-growing economies of East Asia.

Richard Needham, the trade minister, is expected in Hong Kong today for a four-day visit. He will go on next week for talks in Peking, Tianjing and Shanghai.

Mr Needham's brief is to prepare the ground for the November visit by making plain Britain's new sense of purpose in the region.

British ministers believe im-

proved trade links could help smooth the transfer of Hong Kong back to China in 1997.

Mr Needham will be at pains to emphasise to Chinese officials that Hong Kong holds the key to prosperity in China's southern province of Guangdong, adjacent to Hong Kong, which has begun to modernise industry under the influence of inward investment and more liberal economic arrangements.

The trade minister is also likely to pass on concerns in Hong Kong that some Chinese policies are inhibiting fund-raising for the economy. The Treasury 9 per cent 2008 climbed eight ticks to £1007½, while at the shorter end, prices firmed

to £101½, with Eschequer 10½ per cent 1997 adding three ticks to £104½.

Simon Briscoe, economist with Greenwell Montagu, said prices have begun retracing recent losses. "The main worry among investors has been about the recession and the possibility of the pound being devalued. Those fears are now beginning to ease."

Brokers have continued revising down forecasts for economic growth. As a result, investors now see gilts as relatively attractive.

doors to British business on both sides of the border.

Britain has a trade deficit with Hong Kong, even though the colony is Britain's biggest far-eastern market after Japan.

Last year, British exports to Hong Kong were £1.3 billion, against £1.6 billion worth of imports.

However, the volume of exports does appear to be rising in the train of Hong Kong's prosperity. Last year, sales of British goods and services to the colony rose 12 per cent.

In the first five months of the present year, they increased 22 per cent, year on year.

Sales to China remain very

low, given the potential size of the market. They are also subject to great fluctuations, partly because most of China's scarce foreign currency income is reserved for spending on infrastructure.

In 1991, United Kingdom sales to China totalled £322 million, a decrease of almost 40 per cent. But this year they are running 20 per cent higher.

One of Britain's biggest successes has been in power engineering.

Only last week a consortium led by GEC Alsthom, the Anglo-French group, signed an agreement to extend a power station at Shajiao, on the Pearl River in the southern province of Guangdong.



Needham: Peking talks

## BRITISH FUNDS

GOVERNMENT securities regained some of their poise as worries about a possible devaluation of the pound began to recede.

Prices at the longer end recovered from a hesitant start to post gains of about £1½, with investors taking a longer-term view of prospects for the economy. The Treasury 9 per cent 2008 climbed eight ticks to £1007½, while at the shorter end, prices firmed

to £101½, with Eschequer 10½ per cent 1997 adding three ticks to £104½.

Simon Briscoe, economist with Greenwell Montagu, said prices have begun retracing recent losses. "The main worry among investors has been about the recession and the possibility of the pound being devalued. Those fears are now beginning to ease."

Brokers have continued revising down forecasts for economic growth. As a result, investors now see gilts as relatively attractive.

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## Holmes Protection pact will almost clear debts

By JONATHAN PRYNN

HOLMES Protection Group, the security company based in America that, last year, was the subject of a protracted battle for boardroom control, has signed a complex restructuring agreement with its lenders that will virtually wipe out debt. The agreement allows for the elimination of \$72.6 million of loans and accrued interest in exchange for \$28 million in cash, 19 per cent of the enlarged share capital of Holmes, warrants to subscribe for a further 5 per cent and reimbursement of \$2.2 million of costs.

They have also agreed to use \$18.5 million of the \$28 million cash to apply for new

shares. The restructuring will give the lenders up to 56.2 per cent of the enlarged share capital of the company, which is quoted in London.

Funds to pay for the debt restructuring are being raised through share placings in America, the UK and Europe. There is also an open offer to shareholders. The company said the restructuring and the successful implementation of its operating strategy "should place it in a strong position to compete effectively within the electronic surveillance and security industry."

Pro forma net assets at December 31 were \$42.1 million, or \$1.02 per share.

## THE TIMES

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MPI Furniture (115)	120	+2
Multitrust Warrants	11	...
Telegraph (325)	282	-2
BET n/p (110)	14	...

RISER:		
Liberty Life	577p (+10p)	...
FI	515p (+13p)	...
SmithKline	457p (+13p)	...
Melova	186p (+10p)	...
Gleco	716p (+28p)	...
BM Group	94p (+11p)	...
ADT	458p (+10p)	...
Northern Foods	594p (+10p)	...
Vodafone	313p (+10p)	...
News Corp	849p (+16p)	...
Pearson	353p (+11p)	...

Deans Group	195p (+11p)	...
FALLS:		
Wellcome	833p (-12p)	...
Providence	517p (-12p)	...
RMC Group	484p (-11p)	...
Lloyds Chem	216p (-12p)	...
Eng Chem Clays	462p (-13p)	...
A Lee	72p (-13p)	...
Routers	1128p (-25p)	...
Stanton Eng	190p (-16p)	...

Closing Prices Page 22



# SmithKline Beecham has right formulae

ONE week short of its third birthday, SmithKline Beecham, headed by Robert Bauman, is meeting all the targets identified by the reorganising companies and, with its observations of conditions in the pharmaceutical market yesterday, may just have given the Wellcome share sale its first positive news.

Taggart, for so long bearer of the only blockbuster tag in the stable, is now in decline, with sales off 2 per cent, but Augmentin is coming up on the rails and is confidently expected to be in the \$1 billion a year class by the turn of the year, after a 24 per cent increase in the second quarter.

Of the newer drugs, Relafen grabbed £40 million sales in the first half. Seronax has won 20 per cent of the UK anti-depressant market by value, and hopes are high for Kytril, the cancer treatment side-effects product, in Japan. SB also appears to have settled its Taggart patent differences in Japan, where its sales are \$75 million.

If there is a weakness, it is in animal health. Margins suffered and trading profit dipped 19 per cent. Consumer brands profits improved an impressive 19 per cent, but runs the risk of a morale problem if the future of personal care division is not settled soon. Attention continues to be given to the balance sheet, where gearing is down from 42 per cent at the year-end to 30 per cent, and should be below 20 per cent come December.

The market is looking for at



Prescribing the right medicine: Robert Bauman, chief executive of SmithKline Beecham

least £1.11 billion for the full year, which would produce earnings per share in excess of 27p, for a multiple of less than 17 at last night's 457p share price. Given prognostications of double figure earnings growth into the mid-1990s, this is quite justifiable.

## ASH

INVESTORS in Automated Security (Holdings), have had a miserable two years as shares in this once high-flying security products business have slid from their 1990 peak of more than 300p. The

shares lost 4p yesterday, on the interim figures, to close at 129p. The company has been dogged by concerns over its balance sheet, particularly the finance leases written by its loss prevention businesses, and this has been compounded by bear raids on the company's Nasdaq quoted ADRs.

Tom Buffet, ASH's chairman, hopes that two moves confirmed yesterday will allow the company to begin to restore its battered rating. The first is the £150 million sale of the loss prevention division, a deal that elimi-

nates bank debt, increases net assets by 70p, but perhaps, most importantly, clears the finance leases from ASH's balance sheet. The second development is a move from Nasdaq to the New York Stock Exchange, where bear raiding is more difficult.

Interim pre-tax profits fell from £13.5 million to £6.5 million after a £4 million restructuring charge, but the interim dividend has been upped from 2.07p to 2.25p. Forecasts for the full year, range from £20 million to £27 million, but most eyes are now turned towards 1993,

when analysts are hoping to see at least £30 million of profits. That figure would give 16p of earnings and put the shares on a multiple of barely more than eight times earnings. The shares are cheap but buyers must be prepared to stay the recovery course.

## Reuters

REUTERS yesterday proved its own adage of announcing "news that moves markets". The shares opened at 1.151p, advanced to 1.163p, and then fell to 1.125p. Higher pre-tax profits for the six

months to end June of £187.4 million against £170.1 million, and a 12.8 per cent midget in the dividend to 5.3p a share, was tempered by a reminder that life is tough on the other side of the wire.

The net cash pile at £608.8 million has risen by 21.1 per cent since end December, and net interest received rose from £1.9 million to £32.5 million. The uncertainty of where interest rates are going from here, though, may prevent a repeat performance in the second half.

The trading statement was a mixture of good and not so good news. For a media organisation, Reuters all but mouthed an unshakable "no comment" when pressed about the cost of its purchase, for cash, of the outstanding 49 per cent of Viewson from NBC and the BBC.

New products and services continue to be offered to the world at large, but do not expect any improvement in the revenue growth rate in the short term. Only when the pace in financial markets is quicker can stronger revenue growth rates be born.

Reuters still looks on course for year end pre-tax profits of £385 million against £340.3 million, and an increase in the year's total dividend from 17p to 19.5p is possible. The shares trade on 18.8 times prospective earnings, which looks heavy in current markets. But American investors remain in the fan club with a 37.7 per cent, and when stock markets pick up, the shares should again outperform.

## Overseas markets help Dow to early advance

New York — Shares rose in early trading as investors were reassured by overnight gains in Asian and European shares and a stronger dollar. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 7 points to 3,310, having risen as high as 3,318.

□ Tokyo — Prices staged a modest, technical recovery after Monday's heavy declines and the Nikkei index closed up 117.93 points, or 0.74 per cent, at 16,002.41. Investors drew some comfort from the fact that the Nikkei kept above 15,741.27, its 73-month closing low reached on June 20.

□ Frankfurt — Shares ended an indecisive session mixed with a higher bid, recovering only a portion of the 5 per cent plunge since the Bundesbank raised interest rates last Thursday. The Dax index ended

10.10 points higher at 1,659.77, reversing just a part of Monday's 53-point loss.

□ Hong Kong — Prices ended moderately higher in choppy trading on a recovery led by strong buying of HSBC Holdings after its Marine Midland Bank unit reported a turnaround in first-half results on Monday. The Hang Seng index rose 23.95 points to 6,010.44 after swinging widely in a 129-point range.

□ Sydney — Shares finished higher, rebounding in the afternoon in line with a strong finish in Tokyo. The all-ordinaries index closed 4.4 points higher at 1,609.2.

□ Singapore — Prices closed lower on selling. The Straits Times industrial index fell 11.29 points to 1,434.46. (Reuters)

	Jul 21	Jul 20	Jul 19	Jul 18	Jul 17	Jul 16	Jul 15	Jul 14	Jul 13	Jul 12	Jul 11	Jul 10	Jul 9	Jul 8	Jul 7	Jul 6	Jul 5	Jul 4	Jul 3	Jul 2	Jul 1	Jun 30	Jun 29	Jun 28	Jun 27	Jun 26	Jun 25	Jun 24	Jun 23	Jun 22	Jun 21	Jun 20	Jun 19	Jun 18	Jun 17	Jun 16	Jun 15	Jun 14	Jun 13	Jun 12	Jun 11	Jun 10	Jun 9	Jun 8	Jun 7	Jun 6	Jun 5	Jun 4	Jun 3	Jun 2	Jun 1	May 31	May 30	May 29	May 28	May 27	May 26	May 25	May 24	May 23	May 22	May 21	May 20	May 19	May 18	May 17	May 16	May 15	May 14	May 13	May 12	May 11	May 10	May 9	May 8	May 7	May 6	May 5	May 4	May 3	May 2	May 1	Apr 30	Apr 29	Apr 28	Apr 27	Apr 26	Apr 25	Apr 24	Apr 23	Apr 22	Apr 21	Apr 20	Apr 19	Apr 18	Apr 17	Apr 16	Apr 15	Apr 14	Apr 13	Apr 12	Apr 11	Apr 10	Apr 9	Apr 8	Apr 7	Apr 6	Apr 5	Apr 4	Apr 3	Apr 2	Apr 1	Mar 31	Mar 30	Mar 29	Mar 28	Mar 27	Mar 26	Mar 25	Mar 24	Mar 23	Mar 22	Mar 21	Mar 20	Mar 19	Mar 18	Mar 17	Mar 16	Mar 15	Mar 14	Mar 13	Mar 12	Mar 11	Mar 10	Mar 9	Mar 8	Mar 7	Mar 6	Mar 5	Mar 4	Mar 3	Mar 2	Mar 1	Feb 29	Feb 28	Feb 27	Feb 26	Feb 25	Feb 24	Feb 23	Feb 22	Feb 21	Feb 20	Feb 19	Feb 18	Feb 17	Feb 16	Feb 15	Feb 14	Feb 13	Feb 12	Feb 11	Feb 10	Feb 9	Feb 8	Feb 7	Feb 6	Feb 5	Feb 4	Feb 3	Feb 2	Feb 1	Jan 31	Jan 30	Jan 29	Jan 28	Jan 27	Jan 26	Jan 25	Jan 24	Jan 23	Jan 22	Jan 21	Jan 20	Jan 19	Jan 18	Jan 17	Jan 16	Jan 15	Jan 14	Jan 13	Jan 12	Jan 11	Jan 10	Jan 9	Jan 8	Jan 7	Jan 6	Jan 5	Jan 4	Jan 3	Jan 2	Jan 1	Dec 31	Dec 30	Dec 29	Dec 28	Dec 27	Dec 26	Dec 25	Dec 24	Dec 23	Dec 22	Dec 21	Dec 20	Dec 19	Dec 18	Dec 17	Dec 16	Dec 15	Dec 14	Dec 13	Dec 12	Dec 11	Dec 10	Dec 9	Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	Nov 30	Nov 29	Nov 28	Nov 27	Nov 26	Nov 25	Nov 24	Nov 23	Nov 22	Nov 21	Nov 20	Nov 19	Nov 18	Nov 17	Nov 16	Nov 15	Nov 14	Nov 13	Nov 12	Nov 11	Nov 10	Nov 9	Nov 8	Nov 7	Nov 6	Nov 5	Nov 4	Nov 3	Nov 2	Nov 1	Oct 31	Oct 30	Oct 29	Oct 28	Oct 27	Oct 26	Oct 25	Oct 24	Oct 23	Oct 22	Oct 21	Oct 20	Oct 19	Oct 18	Oct 17	Oct 16	Oct 15	Oct 14	Oct 13	Oct 12	Oct 11	Oct 10	Oct 9	Oct 8	Oct 7	Oct 6	Oct 5	Oct 4	Oct 3	Oct 2	Oct 1	Sep 30	Sep 29	Sep 28	Sep 27	Sep 26	Sep 25	Sep 24	Sep 23	Sep 22	Sep 21	Sep 20	Sep 19	Sep 18	Sep 17	Sep 16	Sep 15	Sep 14	Sep 13	Sep 12	Sep 11	Sep 10	Sep 9	Sep 8	Sep 7	Sep 6	Sep 5	Sep 4	Sep 3	Sep 2	Sep 1	Aug 31	Aug 30	Aug 29	Aug 28	Aug 27	Aug 26	Aug 25	Aug 24	Aug 23	Aug 22	Aug 21	Aug 20	Aug 19	Aug 18	Aug 17	Aug 16	Aug 15	Aug 14	Aug 13	Aug 12	Aug 11	Aug 10	Aug 9	Aug 8	Aug 7	Aug 6	Aug 5	Aug 4	Aug 3	Aug 2	Aug 1	Jul 31	Jul 30	Jul 29	Jul 28	Jul 27	Jul 26	Jul 25	Jul 24																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
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## BA achieves its US bridgehead

**B**arring unexpected flak from US regulators, British Airways has clinched its most important strategic deal since buying British Caledonian and perhaps even since the move out of state ownership. In an election year when the president is besieged by an economy still mired in recession, the Department of Transportation may be less troublesome than it might have been. BA's \$750 million infusion of cash into USAir will be warmly welcomed. Ahead of the lengthy regulatory process therefore, the omens are fair.

After a couple of false starts, BA is within sight of its toehold in what is easily the world's largest airline market. This is the market that offers shareholders the best chance of raising long-term growth objectives significantly. It will, however, be a bumpy ride. USAir is heavily loss-making and the 2nd quarter results, due later this month, will not make pretty reading. It will take time and hard work to bring about a return to profit. Many of USAir's domestic rivals are in the grip of a cut-price war. The chapter 11 carriers are fighting for survival and operating with cash generation, not profit, in mind. But if the link goes ahead, USAir will find itself well placed beneath the wing of BA, whose finances are the envy of its peers. USAir's gearing dives from worse than 200 per cent to 70 per cent.

BA's tough cost cutting over the past few years is now paying handsome dividends. It can finance the share stake without recourse to shareholders, though its own gearing will rise to close on 100 per cent on a pro forma basis. USAir is a good fit as a feeder to BA's transatlantic destinations and analysts believe that in the longer run close on £100 million of cost savings and added revenue are possible. In the longer term, as de-regulation proceeds, BA may be able to contemplate a full-scale merger that in turn would lead to critical mass for much bigger acquisitions.

## Missing targets

**W**hile the yawning 6 per cent gap between short-term interest rates in America and Germany reflects the fundamental policy gulf between Europe and North America, there is a peculiar symmetry about the way central banks on both sides of the Atlantic respond to misbehaving money aggregates. Only last Thursday, the Bundesbank president, keenly explained why a host of special factors made a nonsense of the targeted broad money measure, M3. Annualised growth close to 9 per cent compares with a target corridor of 3.5 to 5.5 per cent. Yet, the Bundesbank council chose to leave its target unchanged, despite having no hope of hitting it this year.

In his appearance before the Senate banking committee in Washington yesterday, Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chairman, sought to undermine his key money aggregate, M2, whose sluggishness has caused some anxiety. The American measure has been undershooting the Fed's 2.5 to 6.5 per cent growth target. Set on persuading the markets that the Fed has eased as much as it can, Mr Greenspan effectively trashed M2, saying its weakness was "acceptable". Furthermore, he indicated that Fed was considering shifting the goalposts. The shift away from bank deposits to mutual funds has decreased the velocity of M2. The economy was already on course for recovery. A new aggregate might be appropriate, but not yet. The unreachable target range stays where it is. The idea is not to hit it, but to tell the markets that the transatlantic interest will not widen before November.

**Neil Bennett says the big banks expect to set aside another £5 billion this year to pay for a continuing legacy from the easy money eighties**

**E**arly next month, Britain's big five banks will admit to their shareholders that they made a £2.8 billion mistake. More accurately, they have made tens of thousands of mistakes, leading to legions of companies and people that will never repay them.

Banking in the nineties is dominated by bad debt provisions that are draining the lifeblood of the country's financial system. Last year, the banks set aside £5.6 billion to pay for bad debts, or £640,000 every hour, day and night. Their results for the first six months of 1992 will show the tide of losses has kept flowing.

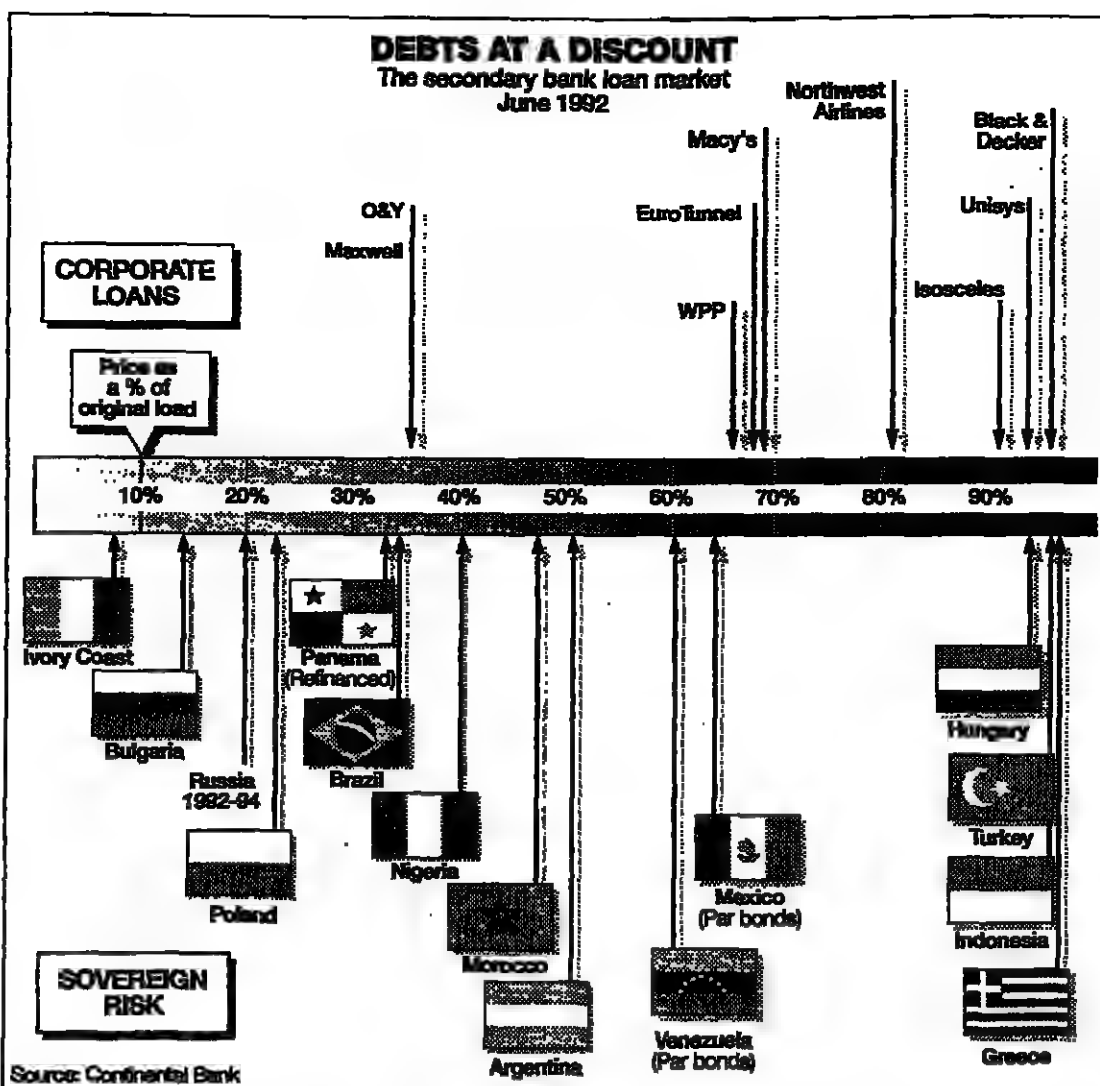
The economy has to bear the costs of these failed loans, many of which were agreed in the easy credit environment of the late eighties. Other solvent customers are paying higher charges and interest rates as the banks try to boost income. Thousands of bank employees are facing redundancy or early retirement as their employers cut costs.

Recessions always bring bad debts, but not on this scale. At the end of the last recession in 1984, banks' provisions rose to 1 per cent of their loan book. Last year, they topped 2.5 per cent. One loan in every 20 was written off.

These provisions come straight out of the banks' capital, the precious reserves that fund all their business. Leading British banks are still, fortunately, among the best capitalised in the world. This year, Smith New Court, the broker, expects them collectively to set aside another £5.1 billion, which reflects the continuing recession and high level of company failures. "Insolvencies and provisions continued to rise after the last recession. We are not out of recession yet so we are not even testing that water," Alison Deuchars, bank analyst at Smith New Court, said.

Nor are there many prospects for recovery until the second half of the decade. In the past, inflation came to the rescue. Bankers were able to sell the security on their bad loans as values rose and write the proceeds back to profits. Inflation effectively concealed the real risks and encouraged lending at impossibly low margins that will have to widen permanently with the advent of low inflation.

High street clearing banks first began to appreciate the approaching storm at the end of 1989 when interest rates peaked at 15 per cent and companies and individuals began to sag under the cost of borrowing. By August 1990, Barclays reported that its provisions had trebled to £458 million in the first half of the year, which included £100 million set aside for British & Commonwealth, the first



large corporate collapse of the economic downturn. Since then, bank chairmen have reported the deteriorating situation to shareholders at regular six monthly intervals. At first they claimed that their figures would bounce back once the recession ended. Now, no one expects anything more than a long, painful convalescence.

A detailed breakdown of the £903 million bad debt charge in Midland's figures last year shows how the bank and its competitors are being hit by defaulting loans on all sides. Three-fifths of the provisions are against loans to corporate customers, the rest against personal borrowers.

On the business lending side, Midland identified 9,403 stricken customers last year where provisions were required. Only ten of the provisions were worth more than £5 million, and totalled only £74 million. The bulk of the damage was caused by medium-sized businesses. Midland made 162 provisions of between £500,000 and £5 million, at a cost of £203 million. The bank also set aside provisions of less than £50,000 against loans to 7,780 business customers. Many were start-up businesses, the product of the government's enterprise drive, which had little or no security and could not cope with a downturn in sales. Midland's provisions were heavily

concentrated in the property and construction industries and in the South East. The property sector soaked up 42 per cent of the total, although it accounted for barely a quarter of the bank's lending. Companies in London and the South, meanwhile, registered 60 per cent of bad debt charges, while the North, one of Midland's strongholds, took up 7 per cent.

**A** classic bad debt might be from a small London property company that asked its bank to finance an office development in 1989, on the back of a short but successful track record. Most banks would have lent up to 80 per cent of the expected value of the completed property. That value has probably fallen 40 per cent, with the property lying empty a year after completion. With no income, the company cannot service the loan and has little chance of selling the building. The bank has few choices but to call in receivers and write off a quarter of its loan plus any accrued interest. Receivers will dismiss most of the company's staff, forcing some to default on their mortgages, personal loans or credit cards.

This year, the pattern of bad debts is changing. The tide of small company insolvencies is ebbing while larger companies, which had the far

to ride out the early years of recession, are beginning to fall apart. The collapses of Mounfield and Olympia & York, and the refinancing at Heron show how deep the recession and the property crash has bitten.

Barclays, which backed many of the large property groups, has suffered a particularly heavy blow. It is expected to make a £965 million provision for the first half of the year.

All the banks have set up departments to handle problem loans. They are normally camouflaged with anonymous titles, like "lending services division". Inside the banks they are known as intensive care units. Midland was one of the first to strengthen its intensive care unit, which now employs up to 45 executives grouped into five teams, as well as staff on secondment from accountancy and legal firms. They are trying to save 160 struggling companies which each owe the bank at least £3 million.

The unit has a varied toolkit. Initially it asks for a detailed account of the company's report, to discover whether there is a viable business that can trade its way out of trouble given time and help. If so, the bank will often increase its lending, extend existing loans or grant an interest or debt repayment moratorium. In extreme cases, Midland will agree to swap some of its debt for preference shares to reduce a company's interest bur-

den. The bank owns stakes in more than 20 of its customers as a result of rescues in the past two years.

David McLachlan, the group's risk management director, estimates that two thirds of the companies that are admitted to the intensive care unit are rescued. Former patients have included Mirror Group Newspapers and Brown & Jackson, the owner of the Poundstretcher discount retailer. He says: "I am absolutely sure we have saved many many millions, not only for the bank but for the companies and their shareholders. The companies we rescue will be banking with us for a very long time."

**T**he scene in the other half of his department is less rosy. The receiverships and recoveries unit has a thousand companies on its books and is still expanding, although Mr McLachlan reports the rate of growth has begun to slow.

Receiverships and rescues take a long time and the banks are likely to have some of these problems on their books for more than a decade. Many lenders are beginning to accept the extent of the losses they have made and want to get rid of their past mistakes. This is leading to the formation of a new secondary market in corporate debt to banks.

The market developed in America, where an estimated \$13 billion of bank loans changed hands last year, and is in its infancy in Europe. Some banks, like Continental, have set up asset trading operations that allow other banks to sell or swap their loans to Maxwell, Olympia & York, WPP or Isosceles at deep discounts to their original value. The market is particularly useful to foreign banks trying to withdraw or cut back their London office.

The growth of new business resembles that of the sovereign debt market in the late eighties. When banks finally made full provisions against their loans to Argentina, Bulgaria or Nigeria, many decided they were ready to crystallise huge losses simply to avoid interminable rescheduling talks with each country. Barclays and National Westminster sold almost all their sovereign debt.

Corporate loan trading is less liquid than the sovereign debt market since there are fewer large debts that can be readily traded. Despite this, Westpac, the Australian bank, recently sold its loans to Maxwell Communication Corporation, which are changing hands at about 36 per cent of face value.

Another European lender swapped all its Eurotunnel debt for Mexican bonds, at about 68 per cent of face value. Alexandra McLeod, managing director of Continental's asset trading arm, says the market will grow as banks begin to write their debts down to a realistic value, enabling them to free themselves from some of the sins of the past — at a heavy price.

Bankers are learning to live with their long-term bad debt burden. It may help remind them of the costs of easy credit, to customers and the economy, as well as to themselves.

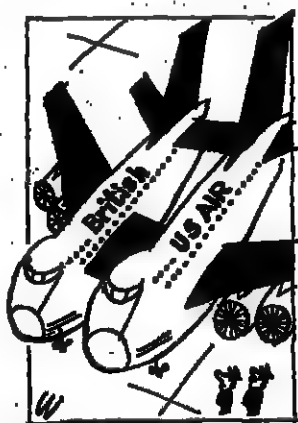
## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Tottenham hot seats change

**Y**ET another boardroom shakeup is on the way at Tottenham Hotspur, only a year after Alan Sugar and Terry Venables wrested control of the then financially beleaguered business. After the disposal of the non-football interests, the quoted parent company and the club are to share a common board. Sugar, who, by all accounts, revelled in his first season at White Hart Lane, will become chairman. Nat Solomon, who took over the hot seat when Irving Scholar and Paul Bobroff fell out in the wake of Robert Maxwell's approach two years ago, is expected to leave. Tony Barry, currently chairman of the football club, and at one point the only director holding out against Maxwell — who had demanded a unanimous boardroom decision in favour of his bid — will become deputy chairman. Venables will remain chief executive, and is said to be "over the moon" at Spurs' recovery from near oblivion. So much healthier is the balance sheet, which once had debts of over £13 million, that the club has been able to reinvest virtually all the cash received for Gascoigne and Lineker on rebuilding the team.

### Muzak-maker

**I**F THE spread of background music seems relentless, you can blame, partly, Julian Huckin, chairman of International Music Services. Huckin, ex-Rediffusion, set up IMS, a Euro-consortium, last year and it is number-three worldwide in "wallpaper" noise. Not content with sup-



plying three-hour cassettes to supermarkets and the like, Huckin has now joined with Sanyo to market eight-hour compact discs of canned music. He promises, however, that the long-playing CDs will improve the quality of background music rather than add to its failings. "The CDs play eight hours of different music and they have a random selection facility so that you don't hear the same music in the same order again and again," Huckin says. You will still get soupy *Moon River* and syrupy *Blue Danube*, in other words, but you will have the consolation of never knowing which of the two will pop up next.

**PRIZE** for the most aptly named journalist of the week goes to Ili Ikononi, Reuters' man in Albania. Ikononi is writing the news agency on the G24 talks on Albania's economy, and is said to be the one East European stringer whose name the newsroom remembers instantly.

### First estate

**D**OES Ian Kitchen, chief executive of the 31-branch Cumberland Building Society,

know something about the housing market that others don't? While his competitors predict further gloom and doom for homeowners, Cumberland has just become the first building society in more than a year to set up in the estate agency business with an office in Cardale. According to Kitchen, the office, which opened last month, already has 100 properties on its books, has more or less completed 20 sales, and looks likely to prosper. Far from being bullish about the housing market, however, Kitchen believes it will be "pretty difficult for some time to come" and simply believes now is a good time to invest on a modest scale. "In fact, I think it will be interesting to see who is next to withdraw," he says, predicting that at least one more major building society will pull out of the estate agency business before the blood-letting stops.

### Futures merger

**M**ORE than two years after Deutsche Bank took over Morgan Grenfell, the two banks finally seem to have found one area, apart from administration, where there is a complete overlap suitable for rationalisation. They are merging their futures and options businesses, which will forthwith be known as DBMG Futures & Options. The respective heads of the two operations, Rupert Lowe and Andrew Whitelock, will continue as joint chief executives. There are to be no redundancies, and all that will be saved is some money for space on the floor of Life. In big organisations, things move slowly, but it's refreshing to see they get there in the end.

DEBRA ISAAC

### Lloyd's pointed in wrong direction

**F**rom Mr A. O. R. Mitchley. Sir, Mr Ian Hay Davidson's very lucid article (July 9) unfortunately points Lloyd's clearly in the wrong direction. His obsession with corporatism and outside regulation fits uncomfortably with the nature of Lloyd's membership as individual traders in numerous insurance syndicates. Neither has the experience of the remote control offered by the Financial Services Act proved much help in such disasters as the Maxwell pension fund.

What the Rowland task force and Sir Jeremy Morse's review have failed to address, but rather have created a smoke screen, is the reform of the agency agreement, which remains the central pivot of the relationship between Lloyd's names and the agents. The agency agreement remains defective in a number of respects, principally the rights of the names over the running of their syndicates

and the duties of members' agents in controlling independently the syndicate managers on behalf of their names.

Indeed, the agency agreement is hardly mentioned in all the recent reviews, discussions and pronouncements at Lloyd's which seem designed to add layer upon layer upon layer of new structures and procedures and place an increasing cost burden on names whilst letting the agents off the hook of sharing in the current disasters and in the implementation of the proposed much too high level central stop loss fund, which is very unlikely ever to be redeemed or to save a Lloyd's name from premature oblivion.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY O. R. MITCHELL  
(Former chairman of the Association of External Members of Lloyd's)  
15 Bryanston Square, W1.

### Voting rights

**F**rom Mr H. H. Marcus. Sir, All names have recently received a letter from the chairman of Lloyd's informing them of a special meeting to be held on July 27. The names were told in no uncertain manner how they are expected to vote on numerous resolutions laid before this meeting.

This action seems to me most undemocratic and inappropriate. Let names decide for themselves what they wish to do.

Some years ago, a previous chairman urged us not to sue Mr Outwater's syndicate for negligence. Had we listened to him we would now be a good deal poorer!

Yours sincerely,  
H. H. MARCUS,  
4 Regency Terrace,  
Fulham Road, SW7.

### Blood pressure index

**F**rom Dr John Paxton. Sir, Building confidence in the economic future of this country can be compared with checking your blood pressure. If it is high and this causes worry, it will cause the next reading to be higher. Confidence builds on confidence and you cannot expect businessmen to be optimistic about the future, when they fill in the questionnaires, if they have been made dismal by the City scribbles in the morning newspapers.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN PAXTON,  
Moss Cottage,  
Hardway,  
Near Bruton,  
Somerset.

Letters to Business and Finance can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

**Fly to Cairo by paper dart.**

New Conqueror business papers introduce something entirely new: Competition. Simply send in your company letterhead. It doesn't even have to be on Conqueror paper with your name and position in the company, and you could win an all-expenses-paid trip for two to Cairo. With a flight back on the supersonic dart of Concorde. Here's how the competition works. In August, we'll fold all the letterheads we receive into paper darts and launch them into space. The one that flies the furthest, well, flies the furthest.

Please send entries to Conqueror Paper Dart Competition, PO Box 174, Millington, Surrey GU1 1TA. Closing date 31 July 1992. For full terms and conditions write to the above address. Sweepstakes open to persons aged 18 years and over resident in the United Kingdom. Prizes are subject to change without notice. Conqueror is a registered trademark.

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## Portfolio

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No	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Worthing SG	Banking	0.00
2	Transport Dev	Transport	0.00
3	Am New 2	Banking	0.00
4	BNP	Banking	0.00
5	Hillside	Food	0.00
6	Wardlaw	Property	0.00
7	Midco Food	Food	0.00
8	Angus Plc	Drugs	0.00
9	Sar Corp	Industrial	0.00
10	Nat West	Banking	0.00
11	Vaux Group	Breweries	0.00
12	Grand Mer	Breweries	0.00
13	Bristol	Newspaper	0.00
14	Avonvale	Property	0.00
15	Pearland	Industrial	0.00
16	Talenta Chem	Industrial	0.00
17	Land Sec	Property	0.00
18	Body Shop	Drugs	0.00
19	Johnson Math	Industrial	0.00
20	TNT	Transport	0.00
21	GRN	Industrial	0.00
22	Trico	Food	0.00
23	Midland Motor	Motor	0.00
24	Wyle Gals	Chemicals	0.00
25	WPP	Drugs	0.00
26	Land	Property	0.00
27	Read Ltd	Newspaper	0.00
28	Dowry	Motor	0.00
29	Walshy	Industrial	0.00
30	Mitel	Industrial	0.00
31	Mirror Co	Newspaper	0.00
32	Br Aerospace	Motor	0.00
33	Midland	Breweries	0.00
34	Wilson Bowden	Building	0.00
35	BAA	Transport	0.00
36	Ellis & Bland	Chemicals	0.00
37	Hanson	Industrial	0.00
38	Rodmans	Industrial	0.00
39	Gr Portland	Property	0.00
40	Pedkins Food	Food	0.00
41	Exxonmobil	Transport	0.00
42	Charter Com	Industrial	0.00
43	Business Tech	Industrial	0.00

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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily gains for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

Three readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mr Norman Meia, of Northwood, Middlesex; Mr Donald Ryan, of London W13; and Mr Robert Green, of Haywards Heath, each receive £666.66.

1992 High Low Company Price + - % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	%	P/E
1992	1.00	0.98	Barclays	1.00	0.02	2.0	15.0
1992	1.00	0.98	HSBC	1.00	0.02	2.0	15.0
1992	1.00	0.98	Midland	1.00	0.02	2.0	15.0
1992	1.00	0.98	Nat West	1.00	0.02	2.0	15.0
1992	1.00	0.98	Paragon	1.00	0.02	2.0	15.0
1992	1.00	0.98	Prudential	1.00	0.02	2.0	15.0
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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

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## Millionaire giants ready to dominate the Games



Johnson: a legend

IT IS as if West Indies were to enter the national village cricket competition. This is the Dream Team: the United States Olympic basketball team. A team of legends: Magic Johnson, Air Jordan, The Bird, Clyde the Glide and "Sir" Charles Barkley — these monsters of wealth, fame and skill are likely to meet Lithuania in the final. Or maybe Croatia.

While qualifying for the Olympics they beat Cuba by a ludicrous 136-57 margin, and complained afterwards that the Cubans got close to them, not to mark them but to have their photos taken in action alongside these

hyperstars. People are asking seriously if the Olympics will ever be the same. It is hard, I know, for Brits to appreciate, but these people have such colossal star quality, so enormous a following, so fabulous an earning power, and their like has simply never been seen before at the Games. Michael Jordan should earn \$25 million next year — only \$3.8 million from actual sport. The rest is merely a little bonus for being famous. These men are simply giants. A few years ago, they would never have played in the Olympics: they are unabashed pros. But amateur-

ism and its attendant hypocrisies are dead: the Dream Team is the logical result. Four years ago in Seoul, tennis became an official medal sport, and many of the top players turned up. But the River Han did not ignite. This was a subliminal tournament. The players were simply doing what they always do — playing tennis against each other — and they were submerged by Carl and Ben and the rest of the fun and Games. That won't happen to the Dream Team. They are not doing what they always do. They are playing together. This is something all the United States and half the world has longed to see. In marketing terms, this is a triple-whammy. The players are already highly bankable commodities in the ad business. They play the world's fastest growing sport and finally, they are rock-solid certainties for Olympic gold. This is an unprecedented treble. In fact, the Dream Team was announced as much as a year ago, mainly as a market-

ing device. Here at the Olympics, they are already a sell-out. Basketball images are being used unashamedly to sell the Games. It is all rather odd because these fellows do not need the Olympics. In terms of sporting attainment and even money, this is just a spoonful more jam on an already overloaded and dripping butter. Almost all the Olympic heroes of times past have needed the Olympics. Coe, Ovett, Thompson; Lewis, Flo-Jo, Spitz. All of them were famous because of the Olympics. Now these giants come lounging into the Games with an air of massive conde-

scension. At the moment they are "practising" on the French Riviera. Olympic football is restricted to pros under 23. Neither the United States nor Japan sends a pro baseball team. This is what we expect at the Olympics. The United States used to send a team of college players to play Olympic basketball. They won every gold from 1936, lost in 1972, and were so cross they refused to accept their medals. Their silverware is still in a bank vault in Munich. They lost again in 1988, beaten by the Soviet Union in the semis, and by then, it was

clear that European pros were too tough for college kids. Now the stakes have been raised somewhat. Every possible argument about amateurism versus the pursuit of excellence has already been raised before the team arrives. There will be more and more of it to come. Surely, people say, the Olympic Games are for weightlifting and fencing and canoeing and stuff: sporting cacti that flower only once in four years. But these Games are set to be dominated by the swaggering millionaire giants of American Enterprise Inc. Is Olympia Ltd now a wholly owned subsidiary?

### South Africa return nears reality

## Pieterse at risk of missing her Games chance

FROM JOHN GOODBODY IN BARCELONA

SOUTH Africa yesterday returned to the Olympic Games after 32 years, only for their delight on their arrival here to be spoiled by an injury to Zola Pieterse and a row over the eligibility of Tom Petranoff, the former world javelin record-holder.

Pieterse, who won the world cross-country title twice when representing Britain as Zola Budd, yesterday underwent a training session at Parliament Hill Field, London, to discover whether she had shaken off the effects of kidney trouble.

South African officials were still uncertain whether Pieterse, who has seen a London specialist, would be running in the Games 3,000 metres. In London, Pieterse said: "I've had a few problems and things have been looking bad for me. I'm just not sure about my fitness."

Sam Ramsamy, the president of the National Olympic Committee of South Africa (Nocsa), said he was mystified by the latest development in Pieterse's career. It is ironic that Ramsamy should be the head of the South African delegation here because it was he as chairman of the London-based South African Non-



The Times on Friday includes a special colour supplement on the Olympic Games, with exclusive comments from Roger Black, Britain's 400 metres medal contender, expert analysis of the great events in Barcelona, and a day-by-day guide for television viewers

Racial Olympic Committee (Sanroc) who led the successful battle to have her excluded from the English team at the 1986 Commonwealth Games because she had not fulfilled the necessary residential qualification.

Ramsamy yesterday was criticised by a leading South African athletics official over his attitude to Petranoff, who set a world record as an American, was banned for six years for competing in South Africa, and then, after staying there, was granted citizenship. On Monday, Judge Dion

van Zyl, a High Court judge and president of Athletics South Africa, sent a fax to Ramsamy. On the flight to Barcelona yesterday Van Zyl said: "He did not even have the courtesy to reply to my fax. I am sick and tired of Nocsa. I have informed the IOC that I want Petranoff in our team."

However, Ramsamy pointed out that within 30 minutes of receiving a fax from South Africa telling Nocsa of Petranoff's selection, he received another fax from the black grouping in the governing body objecting to his selection. His vice-president, Muleki George, said that the black faction thought Petranoff was using South Africa as "a flag of convenience".

Nocsa is accused of delaying attempts to ensure Petranoff can compete in the Games, and Michelle Verdier, the International Olympic Committee spokeswoman, said: "He does not appear to have the required documentation and Nocsa has not passed on his name to us."

The neutral South African team flag for the Games, bearing the Olympic rings, has been much criticised in the right-wing press in South Africa but will be hoisted in the village this morning, marking the country's return to the Games for the first time since 1960.

The team consists of 85 whites and 12 blacks or Coloureds, plus 28 officials split between the races.

However, Ramsamy said: "I have black glasses so, for me, everyone is black."

Photograph, page 25

### London firm does Games ticket deals

A LONDON-BASED company, Westminster Tickets and Entertainment, is offering Olympic Games tickets at several times their face value at offices in Barcelona.

On Monday a Spanish journalist was offered 20 tickets for the basketball final for £528 each. Their face value was between £36 and £50. The journalist overheard a £250 opening ceremony ticket being offered for £722.

Police said yesterday four Americans were arrested for offering basketball final tickets for more than £1,450 each.



Uncharted territory: Powell stretches the long jump envelope to 8.99 metres

## Powell and Drechsler excel

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE longest jumps by a man and a woman were witnessed in Sestriere, Italy, yesterday when Mike Powell and Heike Drechsler took advantage of altitude and wind assistance to leap beyond the official world records. Powell jumped 8.99 metres, four centimetres further than his world record, and Drechsler 7.63 metres, 11 centimetres over the record of Galina Chistyakova, of the Ukraine.

Powell now goes into the Olympic long jump a fortnight today with the psychological edge over his closest rival, Carl Lewis. Not that Lewis was in Sestriere just to

watch Powell and admire the gleaming \$250,000 Ferrari, the prize for a legitimate world record.

Lewis got to work in the 100 metres and showed that, contrary to indications earlier this season, he is still a Williams among Ferraris. That he is not in the Olympic 100 metres was clearly Barcelona's loss after he beat Leroy Burrell, the joint gold-medal favourite.

Even allowing for a following wind and thin air, Lewis's 9.98sec was an improvement on the 10.28 he ran for sixth in the United States Olympic trials five weeks ago. Burrell's 10.03sec for second place will

cast no worries Linford Christie's way. Mark Witherspoon, another of the Americans keeping Lewis out of the Olympic 100 metres, was third in 10.04.

Powell would have reached nine metres had his take-off foot not fallen two centimetres short of the front of the board.

However, his winning leap had a more than generous helping of wind assistance, 4.40 metres per second. It did not stop him predicting a winning leap for himself in Barcelona of between 9.15 and 9.40 metres.

Results, page 25

## Lamb blasts back at Warwickshire's bowlers

BY JACK BAILEY

NORTHAMPTON (first day of three): Northamptonshire won toss; Northamptonshire have scored 307 runs for seven wickets against Warwickshire

IT WAS one of those "Lamb raps rapid reminder to England selectors" days. Whatever part in England's future Allan Lamb may play, there can be no doubt that without him yesterday Northamptonshire would have been in dire straits. As it is, they have fended off Warwickshire for

the time being, almost entirely due to his innings of 188 not out scored out of 303 made while he was at the crease.

This was Lamb's first score of more than 100 against Warwickshire — he now needs only to belabour Somerset and Durham in similar fashion to complete the county set — and even such worthy and experienced opponents as Donald and Small will remember ruefully the power of his driving, particularly the many fours which bisected mid-off and mid-on.

In making the highest score by a Northamptonshire player against Warwickshire, Lamb hit a six and 18 fours, shared in partnership of 93 with Ripley and 106 with Roberts (who was the only batsman to come anywhere near matching Lamb run for run) and altogether defied the visiting attack for five and a quarter hours.

When Lamb came in, Northamptonshire were on the wrong foot completely. Only an hour's delay had brought an admirably early start considering the conditions and the home side, having chosen to bat, lost two wickets for four runs. Fordham stabbed involuntarily at Donald's fifth ball and was caught at slip. The first ball from the other end saw Felton set out on an adventurous short single, only to be thrown out by Penney, swooping from cover. Penney's reputation in the field is growing fast, but this must rank as an aberration on Felton's part. So enter Lamb, with Bailey scarcely established. When Bailey was snapped up by Miles at short leg just before lunch Northamptonshire were

50 for three and by no means out of the wood. When Capel was beautifully caught off his glove, high and wide down the leg side by Piper and then Curran fell for Kew's slower ball, Northamptonshire were not only still in the wood, but deep in the mire. The loss of five wickets for 102 was not what Lamb had in mind when choosing to bat, and he set about redressing the position. He found a notable partner in Ripley who is not unused to these emergencies. Ripley denied himself anything more than obdurate defence while

Lamb took it on himself to counterattack pugnaciously. Lamb is nothing if not a fighter. But his best means of resistance is attack. Donald found the inside edge on several occasions, but the only chance Lamb gave came when he had made 128. The long-suffering Donald failed to judge a high catch at deep mid-wicket and Northamptonshire and Lamb were released to place themselves in a reasonable position.

Scoreboard, page 24  
Essex struggle, page 24



Sometimes I just have this feeling of such emptiness.



PURE GENIUS.

سكس اولاد



WOMEN p5  
Who is eyeing  
the World in  
Action  
ratings?

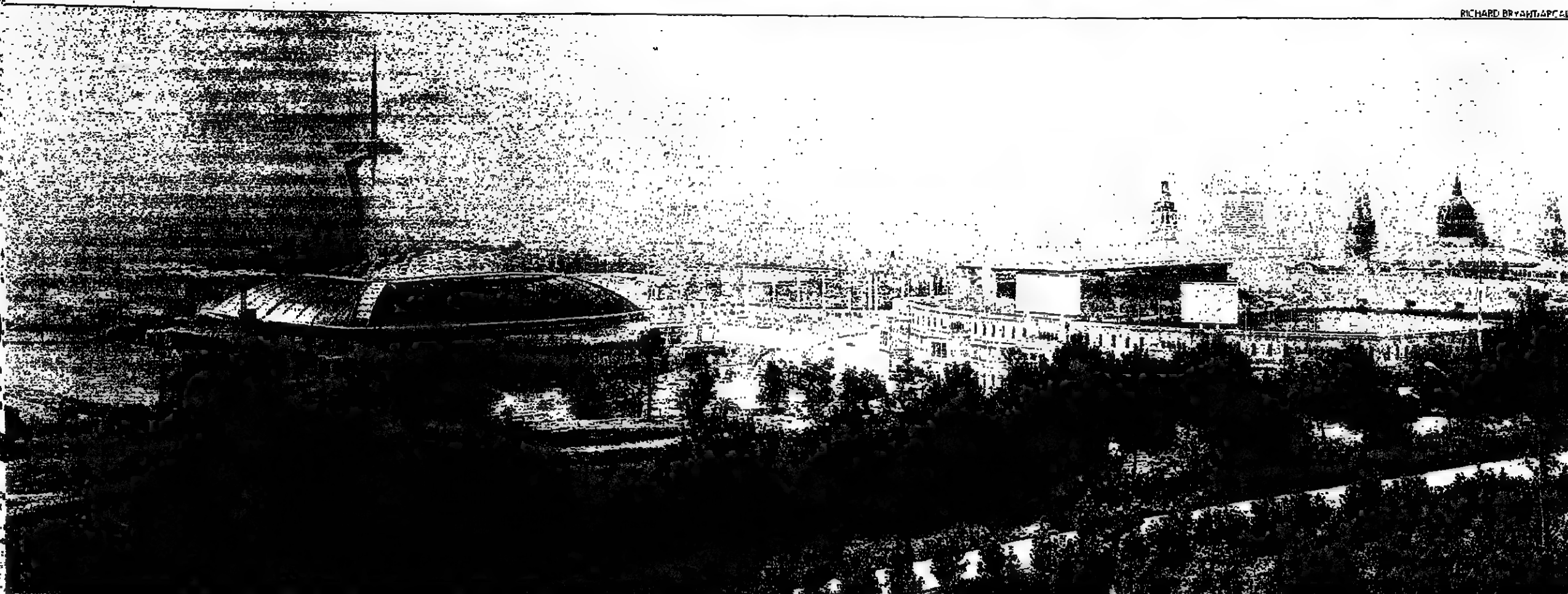
# LIFE & TIMES

WEDNESDAY JULY 22 1992

PROPERTY p7  
East Anglia,  
house price  
barometer, is  
on the rise

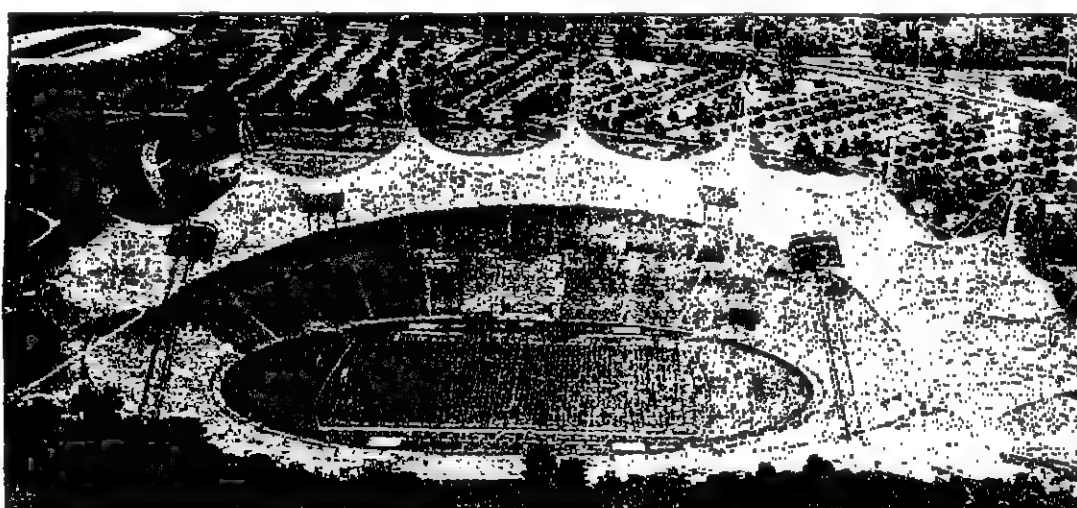


## Designed to break the records



RICHARD DRYSDALE/PA

Isozaki's domed stadium at Barcelona is in the tradition of epoch-making Olympic buildings. Marcus Binney reports



See-through: Benisch and Frei Otto's Plexiglass stadium softened shadows for the cameras at Munich

Every recent Olympics has been marked by controversy over architecture, either before, during or after the event. With new buildings usually far and away the largest item of expenditure, how can the billions possibly be justified for an event lasting just 16 days?

Yet for the founding father of the modern Olympics, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, there were no such reservations. "It is for the architects to fulfil the great dream of a splendid Olympia, at once original in its modernism, and imposing in its traditionalism."

Today the vision has been fulfilled. The great stadiums and arenas of the Olympics can be seen as one of the key building types of the second half of the 20th century, important and pioneering as the great railway terminal of the 19th century. Just as much of the most adventurous Victorian architecture as sparked by new materials and new engineering techniques, so the Olympic arenas have been at the forefront in developing daring new uses of concrete and tensile steel.

Surprisingly, perhaps, all the main modern Olympic stadiums continue to stand. The oldest is the Athenian stadium of 1896 in Athens, an evocative replica of the ancient Greek stadium on the site. The ambitious reconstruction by the architect Metaxas, with 70,000 seats in 47 tiers, was made possible by the generosity of a wealthy Greek living in Alexandria. The hairpin bend at the end was made possible for athletes to take at speed, while the narrow arena put spectators at risk from competitors — such as the American discus champion — who were trying out paces for the first time.

The next two Olympics, Paris of 1900 and St Louis, Missouri, of 1904, were held on open grassy sites, and Greece made an impressionable plea to keep the games permanently. But De Coubertin, backed by the International Olympic Committee, was determined the games should be international, although Athens was awarded an "interim" games in 1906.

Following the sudden withdrawal of Rome, London became the venue of 1908, producing the first purpose-built Olympic stadium at White City in west London, designed by James Filton and accommodating 82,000 spectators. But it was Stockholm that captured De Coubertin's heart in 1912. "The Gothic stadium with its pointed arches and its turrets, its technical perfection is a model," he said.

After the first world war a battle of architectural styles began. Art Deco in 1920 was classical, surrounded by colonnades. Paris four years later had the first cantilever roof grandstand with viewing uninterrupted by columns. At Amsterdam in 1928 the De Stijl architect, Jan Wils, produced the first truly modern stadium, with strong horizontal lines set off by a 100ft pylon for the Olympic flame.

Los Angeles in 1932, like Barcelona 60 years later, saw a burgeoning non-capital city determined to put itself on the world map. The Memorial Coliseum, designed by John and Donald Parkinson, had an open colonnade at one end dedicated to the dead of the first world war. Los Angeles also produced the first Olympic village for competing athletes; at Stockholm and Amsterdam they had been housed in ocean liners.

At Berlin in 1936 the architect Werner March had the poignant task of demolishing the stadium built by his father for the abandoned 1916 Olympics. Hitler specified that only native German materials were to be used and raged at March's curtain glass walls. "He would not set foot in a glass box. The games would have to be cancelled," worried Speer, who obligingly amended the design in suitably ponderous Third Reich style.

In Rome, in 1960, the great engineer Pier Luigi Nervi opened a chapter of dome building as adventurous as the struggles of Brunelleschi and Michelangelo centuries earlier. The saucer dome of his small sports palace is supported from without by tilting Y-beams as

sinewy as the flying buttresses of a Gothic cathedral, while inside the pattern of interlacing ribs is of spirogram complexity. The large palace of sport has a gravity-defying solid concrete dome resting on supports that narrow to dagger points.

The great Japanese architect Kenzo Tange was the one man to follow such an act, abandoning the rigidity of ruler and compass to produce for Tokyo in 1964 arenas with the snaking surfaces of conch shells. These consisted of membranes stretched tent-fashion over masts. "By comparison with the convex space of a dome, the concave configuration of a suspension structure encloses a great deal less space and lightens heating and air conditioning loads," said Tange.

Mexico came next in 1968 with a square "space frame roof" covering a span of 433 feet. This was constructed not of concrete but a grid of interlocking steel girders roofed over in copper. But at certain times of day the long shadows cast by the solid roof made it impossible

for television cameras to cover nearby outdoor events.

For Munich, television coverage became all-important, not least because German television was the main sponsor. Shade was essential for spectators but colour TV cameras could not cope with strong shadow. So the engineers Günther Benisch and Frei Otto designed a dazzling series of transparent tension roofs. Masts, 260 feet high, thickened to prevent bending, were set round the back of the stadium and supported floating fishnet roofs shaped like a continuous series of saddles and covered in nine-foot-square sheets of Plexiglas.

German building regulations, aimed more at concrete than steel constructions, increased building costs to the point where Frei Otto said it would have been cheaper to supply every spectator with a free umbrella for the next 20 years. Perhaps because of this the mayor of Montreal committed himself to a "modest, self-financing games" in 1976. It was not to be.

The now-ingrained desire to create epoch-making, athletic structures led to the choice of a French architect Roger Taillibert, largely on the strength of a daring retractable roof he had designed for a swimming pool in Paris.

Horrendous problems developed as hundreds of drawings had to be transformed from meters to inches in Canada, while North American construction firms had no experience of the epoxy-gluing and tensioning structural methods chosen by Taillibert. In the desperate final stages frozen epoxy glue had to be cleared by men who themselves were in danger of frostbite. The cost of the ambitious and incomplete stadium at \$795.4 million, against a budget of \$132.5 million, produced a torrent of bad publicity for a structure that for sheer adventurousness deserves to be paired with the Sydney Opera House.

Hardly less controversial was Taillibert's Velodrome, a Concorde-like floating roof resting on three giant beams converging on a single point. Engineers asked why the now-ingrained desire to create epoch-making, athletic structures led to the choice of a French architect Roger Taillibert, largely on the strength of a daring retractable roof he had designed for a swimming pool in Paris.

I understand now about Hamlet losing all his mirth. I used to think this meant he didn't laugh at jokes because he was upset. But I realise now that death is surrounded by dreadful comedy, which you are obliged to participate in, in the role of Ernie Wise. Did you read Nigel Williams's interview in Life & Times the other day? How he was told at the hospital that "your father's not very well. Actually he's very poorly indeed. In fact, he's dead?" Well, it's all like that. Neighbours come round to tell you they are sorry, and end up compulsively relating (over several cups of tea) all the tragic bereavements in their own family, going back ten years. Dismayed, you can't believe they are doing it. Is this an Alan Ayckbourn play, or what?

Taillibert had carried the main structural loads on the long axis, not the narrower cross axis, bringing it home at \$86.5 million, against a budget of \$19.7 million. Interestingly, a version of Taillibert's giant leaning tower has emerged as the symbol of this year's Seville Expo.

The Barcelona Olympics, which open this weekend, set a new architectural tempo in two ways. First, they are a touchstone for a major regeneration of old buildings, particularly the 1929 Montjuïc stadium: the facade was preserved while the interior was completely refurbished. Second, after three decades of high-tech wizardry, Barcelona has introduced distinctly classical and monumental elements.

Here is a wrestling hall designed by Ricardo Bofill, best-known for his gargantuan modern classical housing projects in France, and a covered stadium by the Japanese Arata Isozaki, which has conscious echoes of Schinkel's vision of a royal palace on the Acropolis.

The dome, double curved in response to surrounding hills, is once again epoch-making. Huge three-dimensional steel frames were assembled on the ground and slowly jacked up to a height of 148 feet above the floor where they became interlocking and cross-supporting. Isozaki's circulation

spaces, with steel painted in purple, green and yellow, usher in an era in which grey concrete is replaced by interiors as colourful as sporting liveries.

Now that the 1996 Olympics have been awarded to Atlanta, what are Manchester's chances for the year 2000? Manchester has taken on board the importance of exciting new architecture as an essential ingredient in a successful bid, but no one is better placed than the chairman of its design panel, David Plowright, the former Granada TV managing director, to introduce a new element into the Olympics. Manchester's site is threaded with canals and huge, noble warehouses, all crying out for renovation as imaginative as Granada's own studios in a former railway warehouse.

Put forward with schemes such as Richard Rogers's proposals for an Olympic marina in the King's Dock in Liverpool. Manchester could meet De Coubertin's call for an architecture "original in its modernism, and imposing in its traditionalism".

### TOMORROW

Culture vultured: what has Hollywood done to Noises Off?

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## When death is the blackest of comedies

This time last year I had never been inside a register office except for a wedding. Now I am a twice-over veteran of registering family deaths, and I feel I know all about it. The registrar meets you with a smile, invites you to sit at the other side of a desk, and draws your attention to a computer screen on which your answers will appear. You cling to an old brown envelope with "Birth certificate" written on it in familiar handwriting, and experience a mixture of feelings, principal among them the terrible misgiving that your errand is a wicked mistake, and that your dad is going to be really dismayed and hurt when he finds out what you've done.

A couple of months ago, I took my second trip, this time to register the death of my grandmother. We followed the usual form. We were smiled at nicely, invited to sit down, referred to the same bereavement-friendly computer screen. It was a woman registrar this time, rather old-fashioned, with red fingernails, a frilly blouse and a tight suit. Nothing else was different; I sat in the same chair. I even found myself commenting grumpily "This is just like last time," as if I had wanted to see this room again ever in my life.

But here we were again, indisputably, and the heart-breaking bare

details of my grandmother's life (father's occupation: "coal-heaver") were duly tapped into the computer. My mum, who was desperately upset, occasionally proffered extra details to swell the story, which made the registrar pause patiently with her fingers hovering above the keyboard, waiting to get on. Meanwhile I held mum's hand and stared glumly at the screen, making sure all the spellings were correct.

"Now, I'll just print out the death certificate," said the registrar, tapping a few keys. And it was then that it happened. Somewhere between the instruction and the execution fell the shadow, and she suddenly got up, pushed back her chair, forgot we were there, and rapped hard on some frosted partition-glass. "Brenda!", she shouted, in a great lather. "It's happened again!" The smile had gone; there was something wrong. Mum and I looked at one another, perhaps to reassure ourselves that we had not actually disappeared.

The summoned Brenda burst into the room, in a blur of electric blue business suit, and rushed to the machine. "What did it say?" she panted. "I don't know," panicked the registrar, wringing the manicured digits. "Well did it say 'Disc full'?" demanded the fearsome Brenda. "No, I think it was something else." "What did the man tell

### SINGLE LIFE

Lynne Truss dries her tears... but hasn't the heart to laugh



us to do?" barked Brenda, drumming her heels on the floor. We looked on, mum and I, wondering whether we should quietly leave, but guessing that it is probably a mistake to stop registering a death when you are halfway through.

What struck me most forcibly about this scene afterwards was that it could have come straight from an Alan Bennett play. Even the name Brenda had the right touch. How could this registrar not

realise that by suddenly shouting "Brenda, it's happened again" in the middle of a delicate transaction with grieving relatives, she was creating a scene that any drama critic would recognise from a dozen or more modern comedies? It was so strange. Perhaps she doesn't watch television. Perhaps she has no self-consciousness. Perhaps dealing with death takes away your sense of dramatic irony.

The last is certainly true. One of the dubious fringe benefits of your first significant bereavement is learning that the black-suited comic undertaker of popular imagination is not only the real thing, but that it isn't funny and you have to go along with it. You can't say, "Can I have someone who wasn't in Joe Orton's Loot, please?", and you don't feel like laughing. Our two sets of undertakers have been ugly seedy characters with dandruff, Brylcreem, ill-cut suits and nicotine stains who perspire in dark glasses as though rarely exposed to the light of day. And we sat there while they absurdly offered us a range of fancy caskets, knowing there was nothing we could do.

Surprised by grief, you surrender. The arrangements for my father's funeral entailed an hour-long consultation with a jumped-up professional doom-merchant who actually wanted us to share the







# Men are leading the dance again

Darcey Russell has not had much luck with men. Leading men, that is. First there was Jonathan Cope, who partnered Covent Garden's budding ballerina in her first leading role — *The Prince of the Pagodas* — in 1989; only eight months later, disillusioned with dance, he left the stage to pursue a career in business. Then came Robert Hill, a tall, romantic American brought in to partner Russell in 1990; less than five months later a serious injury during a company performance of *Swan Lake* in Washington ended his career with the Royal Ballet.

Then came the much-heralded partnership between Russell and Irek Mukhamedov, the former Bolshoi star now resident at Covent Garden. Hopes were high after their successful *Winter Dreams* pas de deux — a work created specially for them by principal choreographer Kenneth MacMillan — but their first foray into a full-length ballet, *Manon*, had to be called off just before opening night when they turned out to be insurmountably mismatched as a duo.

Enter Zoltan Solymosi, 24-year-old Hungarian hunk and the Royal Ballet's newest recruit. He arrived in January like a rough diamond: all power and no polish. But he quickly began to develop refinement and a respect for detail which, with his considerable height and strength, made him Russell's best prospect yet for an effective stage partnership.

As Russell discovered, a good man is indeed hard to find, and nowhere more so than in the world of classical ballet where tall, dark and handsome is not enough — princes have to be able to dance, too. Tall, long-limbed ballerinas like Russell pose a particular challenge for directors eager to discover that rare magical stage coupling which can bring the classical warhorses to life and fire audiences in the process.

Anthony Dowell, the Royal's artistic director, has spent the past six years grappling with the problem of leading men. "It's a problem all round the world," he says. "There are a lot of much taller women now as ballerinas and there's been a dearth of tall, very classically gifted male dancers. They are a rare breed in any case. Talent is not choosy; it picks short or middling as well as tall."

Suddenly, though, the Royal Ballet can boast its strongest male lineup in more than a decade, since the days when Dowell and David

## Debra Craine on how a Hungarian, a Russian and a Briton have given the Royal Ballet new male strength

Wall, ranked among the world's top dancers. Most importantly, Dowell has also found the partners to match his three reigning ballerinas. Solymosi's hiring has solved the Russell problem: Mukhamedov has forged a dramatic stage partnership with the Italian-born Viviana Durante. And now comes the news that Jonathan Cope is returning to performing, rejoining the Royal Ballet in October. He will dance with Sylvie Guillem in *Swan Lake*, reviving their earlier stage pairing and thus solving the pressing problem of finding a tall partner for Covent Garden's elegant French superstar.

The time for such symmetry could not be better: as box-office considerations force the Opera House management to stage more and more full-length story ballets, so the need for well-matched couples to carry them becomes greater. And with the emergence of exciting partnerships within the company, Dowell can rely less and less on expensive guest artists from abroad to boost ticket sales.

Still, overseas is where Dowell had to look in the first place to find most of his leading men. He had no alternative: Britain is not yet in the business of producing them on a large scale. Last year, for example, the Royal Ballet School attracted applications from 971 girls and only 118 boys. Currently the school is training 125 girls and 73 boys.

According to Kathryn Wade, the school's ballet administrator, "it is always a problem attracting boys. Inevitably, far more mothers send their daughters to dancing classes than send their sons to dancing classes. Yet that is ironic, because we used to be known as the 'dancing English'. In the time of Elizabeth I the English were always the ones who had the new dances."

The infusion of foreign artists will inevitably mean a watering down of the Royal Ballet's refined English style, typified in the past by dancers

such as Michael Somes and Donald MacLeary. But times have changed, along with audience expectations, and choreographers — most notably MacMillan — have already given British dancers a more physical and international style.

"True greatness in their own way whatever country they come from," says Dowell. "You can never change someone's natural way. Rudolf Nureyev did untold good for the male dancer but I wasn't threatened by him when he danced with the Royal. We watched and learned; no way would I have copied that style. If boys today copy someone's jump or energy level there's nothing wrong in that."

Bruce Sansom, who recently returned to Covent Garden after a year with the San Francisco Ballet, is one of the homegrown talents who have been watching the foreign artists at work. "They are not necessarily better," he says. "But they bring things to the ballet which we're not used to seeing and we can learn from that. Irek is so incredibly musical and has a natural instinct to perform. And Zoltan is so exciting to watch."

"British dancers disadvantage themselves through their mental approach," adds Sansom. "Every one says Americans, for example, are pushy and aggressive, but far from that they're just incredibly keen and eager. That's something we don't approve of; we don't allow people to step forward."

Nobody could accuse Solymosi of reticence: if anything, his weakness is his impetuosity. By his own admission, "a passionate, very temperamental and very angry" dancer, he is having to learn to harness his powerful style to fit in with the Royal's more meticulous approach to technique, especially in the classics.

"Here in Britain artistry and technique are 50-50 per cent," says Solymosi. "There in Hungary it's 75-25 per cent in favour of artistry so you can dance much more freely. You don't have to worry so much about pirouettes and the choreographers there are much more lenient. If you can't do something they let you change it to what you can do, so you can concentrate on your artistic approach instead of the technical."

The dancing Hungarian is well aware of why he was hired by Covent Garden. "Because I am tall! Maybe yes, this can be. And I'm a good partner and maybe because I



Power match: Darcey Russell and Zoltan Solymosi in rehearsal for *Elite Syncopations*

look good dancing with someone."

A successful partnership with Russell is central to Solymosi's relationship with the Royal, but she is not the only ballerina he will be dancing with. Next Wednesday he partners Sylvia Guillem in *La Bayadère*; in August he will make his debut as Romeo opposite the Juliet of Alina Asymuraeva.

guest artist from the Kirov.

So has Russell finally found her leading man? Certainly Solymosi is that rare partner who can give her confidence in the big roles, such as *Swan Lake* and *Manon*. "He's a power dancer who can match my power," she says. "We are well suited to each other because I am a strong dancer who has got to have a

man who is the same height and power. He's very dramatic and he loves dancing. It's nice to dance with somebody who doesn't hold anything back."

"Sometimes it's scary, he's got so much strength you don't know what he's going to do. But from the audience point of view he looks very caring and that counts for a lot."

## ARTS BRIEF

### Popping along

RICHARD HAMILTON has been chosen as the artist who will represent Britain at the Venice Biennale next year, the British Council has announced. He is to create a new work for the British pavilion, which will also exhibit other paintings, drawings and installations made by Hamilton in the past ten years. The 45th Biennale, which opens in May next year, will have 60 countries showing art in 28 pavilions. Hamilton is currently the subject of a large retrospective at the Tate.

### Man for Mozart

THE Swiss-born conductor Matthias Bamert is to be the next music director of the London Mozart Players, succeeding Jane Glover. He will take immediate responsibility for the orchestra's artistic planning, though he does not officially begin the three-year appointment until September 1993. Bamert, now living in Britain, is best known for his work with big orchestras and in contemporary music. He was principal guest conductor of the Scottish National Orchestra for five years from 1985, and during that time he directed the Musica Nova concerts in Glasgow. At present he is the director of the Lucerne Festival.

### Last chance...

IS THERE no limit to the appeal of Simply Red's *Stars*? It was the biggest-selling UK album in 1991 and is so far, the biggest seller in 1992 as well. It currently stands at No 2 in the UK chart and has not dropped lower than No 10 since it was released 42 weeks ago. Yet such mass-market success has not hindered *Stars* from reaching the shortlist for the Mercury Music Prize, where the judges' brief is to consider the nominees purely on artistic merit. With a strong supporting cast of Burning Spear, Deee-Lite and Brand New Heavies, Simply Red stages its fifth and final outdoor event of the summer at Gateshead International Stadium (091-478 1687) on Saturday.

Theatre: Rod Williams's award-winning play about prison life comes to London this week. Harry Eyres met the young author

## Aristotle stirs the porridge

As critics continue to lament the dearth of well-crafted new plays and the decline of dramatic language, one cure which is rarely considered is close study of Aristotle's *Poetics*. Rod Williams, the 28-year-old dramatist whose award-winning first play, *No Remission*, opens at the Lyric Studio, Hammersmith, tomorrow, believes much can be learned from the old Greek. "At first glance *The Poetics* may look like a dry treatise, but the more I read it the more truth and wisdom I find in Aristotle's remarks, especially about plot."

Before anyone assumes that *No Remission* deals with an episode from the Trojan War, it should be made clear that Williams's play is a tense contemporary three-hander about two murderers and a bank-robbler, set in a maximum security prison. After winning second prize in the 1988 Mobil-Royal Exchange competition, it was performed on the Edinburgh Fringe, and won enviable plaudits from Michael Frayn ("a quite remarkable first play") and John Peter ("a blisteringly claustrophobic account of prison life").

Williams worries that his prison play may not be taken seriously because he himself has spent no time behind bars.

In fact, he rather resembles a younger version of Douglas Hurd and is a respectable alumnus of the same college — Trinity, Cambridge.

The first aspect of the play to impress me was the authentic language. "I was attracted to a prison setting partly because it is intrinsically heightened and dramatic, but also because of the language: there are more witty speakers in prison than anywhere else I know. And I am encouraged by comments from several people who have been inside that rings true."

Williams is concerned not only with authenticity but also with economy. "My aim with dialogue is to cut down to the essential, to purge the prosaic. But the poetry should not be self-conscious, it must come from the structure. Dramatic dialogue should never be literary."

The question of language is not the only one which preoccupies this impressively serious young dramatist — nor even, perhaps, the most important. We are back with Aristotle again: "Aristotle talked about imitation, mimesis, which covers dialogue and character-

sation, as not being the most difficult, the highest part of the playwright's skill. The most difficult thing, to which he devotes most space in *The Poetics*, is the making of complex plots."

But is there not a danger in this? Aristotle placed plot above character and in so doing became the godfather of the "well-made play" and the mechanical plot-based films churned out by present-day Hollywood, the *Terminators* and *Basic Instincts*. "That is certainly true. The term 'well-made play' became derogatory because it referred to the kind of creaky dramas with cardboard characters in clichéd situations which filled theatres in the Thirties and Forties."

"I am not advocating a return to that kind of thing. But it is a truism that all good plays should be well-crafted. I aim for a combination of rich characterisation and complex plotting. The construction will be intricate but it must not show and that's damnably hard to achieve. When you see it well done, by Ibsen in his

middle period or by Arthur Miller, it is awesome."

Ibsen, Arthur Miller — isn't this all rather old hat? "People say that kind of drama is dated. Actually, I think it's just difficult to do. There is also the argument over naturalism, which I consider irrelevant. Ibsen and Miller are naturalists and classicists at the same time: the thing to avoid is undigested reportage." Williams admits that he does not see much contemporary drama, mainly because, living on around £6,000 a year cobbled together from grants and the dole, he cannot afford to. One new play he unreservedly admires is Dorfman's *Death and the Maiden*, probably the most Aristotelian drama of the last century.

Otherwise, he praises David Mamet. "The language is so brilliant, and so dense: there is so much behind each speech." Williams's second play, *Crevice People*, which has been adapted for BBC 2's *Screenplay* series, is bound, he thinks, to attract comments of "influenced by Mamet". "It's about a group of telephone salespeople, and unusually for

me, comes out of my own experience. I hadn't read *Glengarry Glen Ross* when I wrote it. Mamet does a lot of what I was trying to do, marvelously well."

Williams's latest play, called *The Life of the World to Come*, is set on a Caribbean island peopled by Americans, a hundred years in the future. It has taken him three years to write

and he is trying to find a theatre to take it on. For all its critical encouragement, *No Remission* has taken four years to achieve a London premiere. When Aristotle wrote *The Poetics*, one subject he did not cover was the determination and courage needed to succeed as a playwright. But Williams appears to have those, in addition to a talent worth watching.

● *No Remission* opens at the Lyric Hammersmith, King Street, London W6 (081-741 2311) tomorrow at 7pm

## TELEVISION REVIEW

### Abnormal service

One of the basic tasks of any government, local or central, is to dream up euphemisms which will disguise awkward realities — such as "community charge" for poll tax or "efficiency gains" for cuts. So it was not entirely surprising that Lewisham Council's "social services special duty team" in last night's *Town Hall* (BBC 2) turned out to be the men who cleaned up the maggots, the rotting meat and the excrement.

In the interview, they said you had to pick up the pieces, rub down the walls, things like that," said Darren, whose workmate Graham confessed that the council's clean-up patrol was dirtier work than his previous job, down in the sewers. In the opening shots of the documentary, the pair paid their regular visit to the home of Bobbie Wheeler, a 73-year-old council tenant living in appalling squalor with her five cats in a flat without lighting or hot water.

No punches were pulled as the camera panned round this distressing vista of human wreckage. The living-room floor was littered with filth and tin cans, the bath full of cat excrement. Darren and Graham got shovelling as Mrs Wheeler chatted away. "I wouldn't do without these two," she remarked, barely able to stand as she leant against the doorframe and flicked the ash off her cigarette. "They're wonderful and I don't know why they want to do away with them."

This consistently excellent fly-on-the-wall series has been one of the summer's treasures, matched in the documentary field only by *Pandora's Box*. As the weeks have passed, attention has turned from Lewisham's education crisis to the council's social services department and its battle for a

fair slice of the shrinking financial cake. Mrs Wheeler's poignant case was interwoven with scenes from the fraught meetings at which officials struggled to make hard decisions about cuts.

The fascination of local government is its immediacy, as *Town Hall* has shown to brilliant effect. The Treasury can treat public expenditure as an abstraction, a matter for mental gymnastics, but local councils enjoy no such luxury. Today's cut is tomorrow's angry demonstration, just outside the front door — as the social services chairman and his elected colleagues were clearly aware.

Yet their debate cut much deeper than wariness of the voter. Should Lewisham cling to a Beveridge philosophy of universal entitlement for all, or start making harsh priorities? Life-saving services or luncheon clubs for lonely pensioners? Put that way, of course, the choice was no choice at all. As the director of social services explained, the department's main customers from now on would be "the people that need services to allow their life to continue in any acceptable way".

Meanwhile, Mrs Wheeler's life had drawn to a sad conclusion, a few days after she was found immobilised and taken to hospital. The council took care of her cats and her funeral. Her wish that her ashes be scattered in the remembrance garden of the local parish church was respectfully honoured. Some dignity was preserved; yet, as the programme closed, there was infinite pity in the sight of welfare officers counting out her estate, which amounted to little more than a heap of forgotten change.

MATTHEW D'ANCONA



Williams: "dramatic dialogue should never be literary"

London Galleries: a show of works by female artists, reviewed by John Russell Taylor

## Woman's work: never done justice?

Though a feminist angle is still useful in getting any show of relatively obscure art on the road, the excessive claims made a few years ago on behalf of any forgotten artist who happened to be a woman have abated somewhat. Artists like Sonia Delaunay and Sophie Taeuber-Arp can be included in the new South Bank touring show "The Non-Objective World" without our automatically being told that they were chauvinistically pushed into obscurity and were the true creative forces behind their husbands Robert Delaunay and Hans Arp.

What is now free to emerge from shows of women's art is that among women, as among men, there are major figures and minor, that oblivion has sometimes fairly descended upon them and sometimes not. Decades considers the case of ten British women artists born between 1897 and 1906, five of them still alive and active. Two of them, Barbara Hepworth and Eileen Agar, are very famous. One of them, Lilian Holt, falls into the

category of "if only she hadn't been married to..." — having, some feel, subordinated her own talent to that of her husband David Bomberg.

On the other hand, Hepworth was for years married to Ben Nicholson, and nobody ever saw her as taking second place. Of the other seven, Gertrude Hermes was always a leading figure in the more constricted world of wood-engraving, absolutely level in regard with her husband Blair Hughes-Stanton; Mary Adams head was never quite so well known as her husband Steven Bone; and the rest have enjoyed moments of notice as well as periods of eclipse, just as male contemporaries might.

There are few general conclusions to be drawn from the show. It would be difficult to come to any startling new valuation of individual artists on the basis of three works each. It is clear, though, that the talents on show are as varied as the styles, and that there seems little anywhere that would mark the work, unlabelled, as being by

women. None of the artists shown seems to have had much interest in the matter of women, in the traditional women's arts, in pregnancy and child-bearing, or specifically female eroticism, however directed. Perhaps Agar, through her surrealist work, comes closest to that, as the degree of abstraction she achieves leaves itself open to all kinds of interpretation.

On this evidence the most unfairly neglected seems to be Sylvia Meland, still going strong at 86. Her particular brand of realism has an almost expressionist tinge to it. Only one of her works on view, the colour print *Girders*, represents the grimmer side of her vision of industrial society, but a one-person show at the Boundary Gallery a couple of years ago demonstrated her to be an artist of stature and individuality worth looking at again. In the present selection Nan Youngman comes out, surprisingly, as the more socially committed artist, with her pictures of industrial Wales.

Emily Bridgewater was an early Surrealist, a little behind Agar, having undergone a spectacular conversion at the International Surrealist Exhibition of 1936, and was responsible for one or two of the most memorable British images produced by the movement, though one would not necessarily guess it from the work on show here.

As for any hopes that our whole view of women's role in 20th-century British art may be transformed by this show, the idea that one leaves with is the same as that one went in with: that Barbara Hepworth was a great sculptor, with no reference to gender required, and Gertrude Hermes was a brilliant wood-engraver — first, certainly, among the several women who distinguished themselves in the field, and with nothing to fear from comparison with any man. Otherwise, the artists on view are more or less interesting, quite unpredictably, like any others of their generation.

● Morley Gallery, 61 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 (071-928 4550) 10am-6pm, until Friday



Betty Red's *Silly Girls*, 1960, on show at the Morley



# Waiting for the Notre Dame sound

Josephine Akrill finds a new spirit abroad in French church music and a new choir about to sing in the heart of Paris



SATURDAY afternoon, Notre Dame de Paris. In front of France's most famous Gothic facade, painters paint coloured robes into tourists' hair, and visitors arrive in their coachloads to plop around the cathedral's ancient, incense-filled aisles.

Stroll down a deserted side-street just off the north transept, and you stumble across the newly-created Notre Dame Sacred Music Association, currently holding auditions for its new choir school which, from September, will provide the cathedral with daily choral evensong and fugalise.

"French music is at last moving out of its malaise," explains Michel-Marc Gervais, the cathedral's new choirmaster, faced with the daunting task of restoring Notre Dame to its former position as one of the major centres of European music, and the birthplace of Western polyphony. "Twenty-five years after the Second Vatican Council and the switch to services in the vernacular, which spawned a lot of very banal sacred music, the pendulum is about to swing back. People are starting to demand more inspiring music."

Currently the fashion in parish churches all over France, the simple "singable-by-all" modern chants have been unflatteringly described by another cathedral choirmaster as having "all the advantages of nylon over silk — they wash easily, dry quickly, and don't need ironing. If music is no more eloquent than the silence it breaks," he added, "then give me back the silence."

A sentiment which is now shared, it seems, by many French worshippers. "They're dying for polyphony and Gregorian chant," claims Gervais, a 37-year-old Canadian, born in a Francophone village in the Western province of Alberta, where the Council's recommendations were slow to take root. "It's

often forgotten that, before 1968, the congregations actually sang the Gregorian chants themselves. My own mother had two books of chants as thick as your thumb."

Common knowledge of Gregorian chant has now been lost, and a large part of Gervais's work at Notre Dame will be teaching the boys the arts of Latin chant, plainsong and polyphony. Having experienced choral singing in England, Sweden and Germany, he bemoans the current state of the art in France, which he blames partly on the

country's musical education system.

"Whereas Swedish and English children are introduced to music at primary school, the French conservatoire system sets music apart from the normal school syllabus. Here the learning of solfège, or the musical alphabet, is totally divorced from musical practice. Children must go through two years of theory before setting hands on a violin or piano, and they lose their natural taste for music." This is a situation which he intends to avoid at the new choir school, where the emphasis will be on giving pupils a love of music-making.

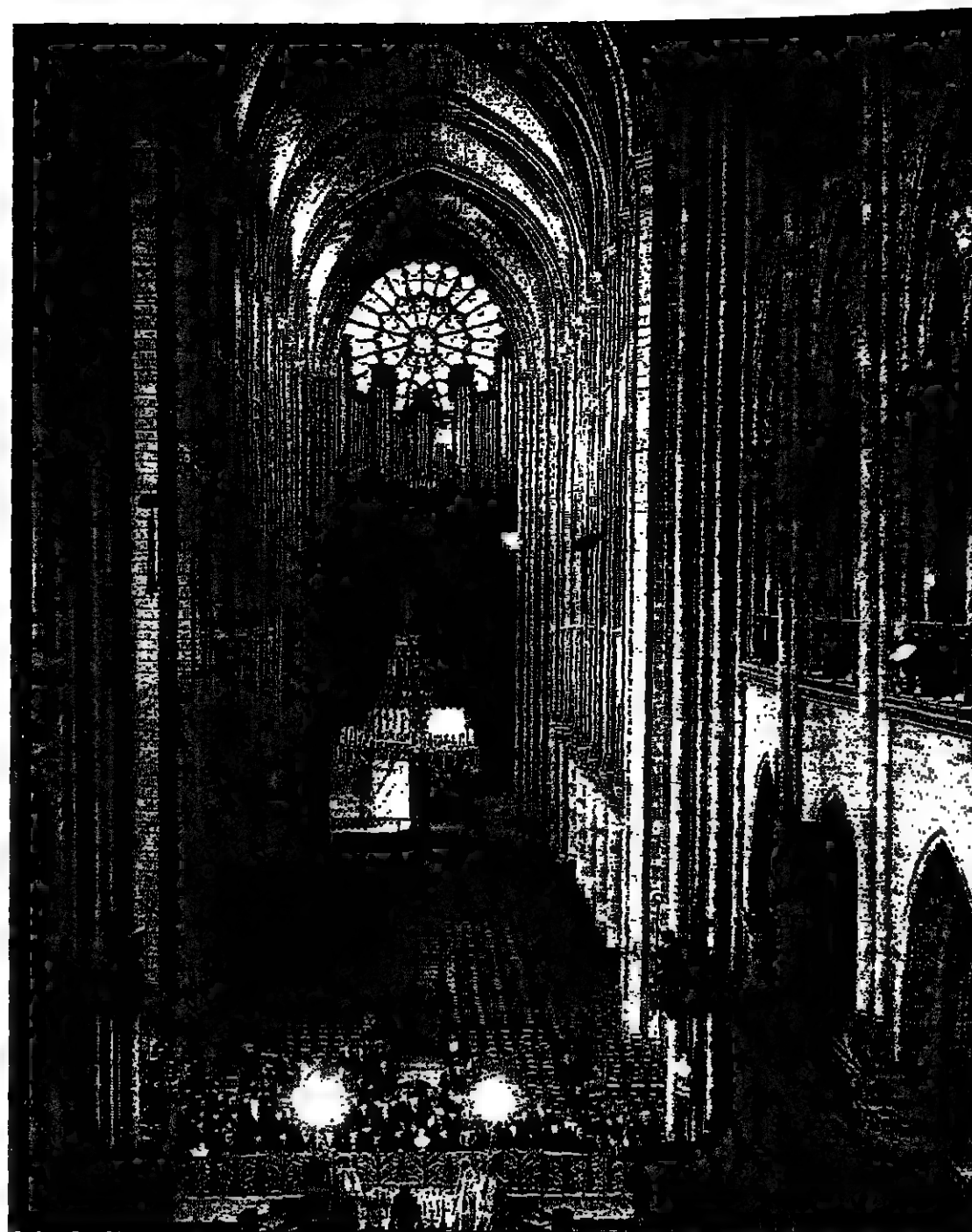
Despite France's trouble-ridden history in the field of church music — the closing of the choir schools during the Revolution led to what Gervais terms "close to 200 years of

silence" — hope is now on the horizon, with new choir schools springing up all over the country. The Notre Dame sound, Gervais says, should "spring naturally from the language, musculature and temperament of its native singers". He will be looking neither for the "white" quality of the pure English tradition, nor attempting to copy the harder German sound, which, he believes, may force the young voices past their limits, and jeopardise a later singing career.

Gregorian chant will be given a high profile at the daily six o'clock services from September onwards, though amateurs may be surprised at the avant-garde interpretations offered by Gervais and his choir. "We'll be working with Dominique Vellard, a medieval music specialist in Basle who is making some startling discoveries about the way the chants were originally sung. All I can say is, it'll be much closer to the Hebrew sources, less ephemeral and floaty — and we're expecting some strong reactions!"

One of France's biggest tourist attractions, Notre Dame de Paris is visited by 12 million people a year. Clattering footsteps, clicking cameras, and the high-pitched tones of tour-guides regularly threaten to drown the words of the Sunday Mass, a problem which Gervais is taking steps to solve well before September. Guided tours are now banned on Sundays.

Loosely based on Vespers — Evensong does not exist in the Catholic church — the service will be held in the choir rather than the huge nave, and without the microphones so beloved of post-Vatican Two priests. "I'm hoping for a more intimate atmosphere than on Sundays," says Gervais, "when 2,000 people attend the hourly Masses, and each service follows hot on the heels of the last." An unlikely prospect, according to Guillaume Deslandes, director of the Sacred Music at Notre Dame



The enchantment of chant: Notre Dame, where music long unheard will soon be soaring up again

project, if attendance at the Sunday organ recitals is anything to go by. "We only have to mention 'music at Notre Dame' in the paper, and the cathedral is packed out. Within a year, the evening choral services at Notre Dame will have become a 'must' for Parisian worshippers and music-lovers alike."

The Ministry of Culture is pouring money into the Notre Dame project, whose total budget for 1993

is almost five million francs, an unprecedented event in a country where church and state were irrevocably wrenched apart in 1789, and direct funding of the former by the latter is illegal. "The Notre Dame scheme raised an entirely new problem," says Deslandes. "We had to make sure that state participation was purely within the educational and cultural sectors of the project." For Gervais, it is proof that

the fortunes of French church music are finally changing.

In December, Notre Dame's 19th-century organ, currently under restoration, will also once more thunder forth, joined by the mixed choirs of Notre Dame, St Paul's and Westminster cathedrals. It will be the start, Gervais hopes, of a continuing collaboration between Europe's oldest, and her newest cathedral choir schools.

## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

● **BAYREUTH:** The annual Wagner festival opens on Saturday with a production of *Tannhäuser*, under the baton of the British conductor Donald Runnicles (more performances on Aug 6, 16, 19, 23). There is also the first cycle of Harry Kupfer's provocative staging of *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, conducted by Daniel Barenboim, and Dieter Dorn's production of *Der Fliegende Holländer*. Plácido Domingo puts in two appearances in *Parsifal*, conducted by James Levine on August 17 and 20.

Bayreuth Festspielhaus, tickets from Kartenbüro, Postfach 10 02 62, D-8530, Bayreuth (010 49) 92120221. Opens Saturday until Aug 28.

● **BERLIN:** An opulent exhibition dedicated to the controversial French painter and sculptor Jean Iouste, whose giant sculpture, *The Human Being Builds His City*, takes the space in front of the Berlin International Congress Centre. The show includes 74 aquarelles and drawings, and 30 sculptures from the years between 1974 and 1991. Staatliche Kunsthalle, Buda-Steiner Strasse 42-46, Tues-Sun, 10am-6pm (Wed to 10pm). Until Aug 16.

● **HELSINKI:** Miguel Gómez-Martínez conducts the Finnish National Opera Orchestra and Choir in the opening concert of the festival on August 8. Highlights include the Finnish premiere of Canadian director Robert Lepage's stunning six-hour show *The Dragons' Trilogy* (Aug 22-24); the Cairo-born choreographer and dancer Suraya Hilal, presenting her fine and accessible interpretations of ancient Egyptian dance (Aug 31); concerts by the Cleveland Quartet (Aug 22, 23) and Emerson Quartet (Sept 5); a recital by Kathleen Battle (Aug 3); and concerts by the Finnish Radio SO and the Helsinki PO.

Helsinki Festival, Unioninkatu 28, SF-00100 Helsinki (010 90) 659688. Aug 8-Sept 6.

● **PARIS:** Under the direction of Luis Pasqual, the Théâtre de l'Europe Odéon will feature a Spanish and Latin American season this autumn. Most of the productions will be by visiting companies, including the Catalan group, Els Comediants in *Mediterranea* (Sept). Also in September will be *Lope de Aguirre, Tráidor* by the contemporary Spanish writer, José Sanchis Sinisterra. It consists of monologues by nine characters on the controversial Spanish Conquistador, Aguirre. Continuing the theme of the Spanish colonisation of America, Els Comediants presents *Yo Tengo un Tío en América* by Albert Boadella. Luis Pasqual himself rounds off the season with *Lope de Vega's El Caballero de Olmedo* (Nov-Dec). Théâtre de l'Europe Odéon, 1 place Paul Claudel, 75006 (010 331) 43257032.

## Dogs of the North

Russian TV shows a race in the cold



'A blue snow track among volcanic mountains': the Beringia sledge-dog racecourse in the former Gulag lands of the Kamchatka peninsula

ROSSIISKOE TV, or Russian State Television, will be showing a remarkable film next month, *Goryachie Sobaki* ("Hot Dogs"). It is about the 1992 Beringia Sledge-dog Race on the Kamchatka peninsula in the Russian Far East. The race started on 8 March from a small place called Esso — nothing to do with Esso

Petroleum — and went on for 28 days. Fifteen competing sledges, each hauled by nine dogs, took part, each day covering up to 160km. Only eight sledges completed the 1,980-kilometre course. The winner, a father-and-daughter team, 43-year-old local electrician, Vladimir Radzivilov, and his 17-year-old schoolgirl daughter Nasya, made it in 71 hours, 34 minutes and 34 seconds.

The 1992 race was the second to be held. It attracted a crowd of reporters from all over the country, with a team of vets and dog-breeders. It also created a lot of activity in the former Gulag territory — notably a festival of folk dance and music. The people are Koryaki and Chukchi, races which nearly disappeared during the Russian Arctic during the Soviet regime. The life expectancy of the men was

until recently only 43. There are now some 3,000 of them. The dogs are a beautiful Russian long-distance sporting breed, now nearly extinct, closely related to wolves. For years they have been underbred, badly treated, and systematically killed for skin and fur. The local people have now restored the breed to health. The rules of the race require a tired dog to be taken onto the sledge to rest, and immediately

ly treated by a vet. Japanese breeders offered \$1 million for eight of the winning dogs. The Esso municipality, backed by a local Stroibank, or building society bank, has already started developing the place. The first modern hotel will be ready early next year. Foreigners who come to watch the 1993 race will be able to hunt local game as well as photograph the race from a specially prepared sledge.

The 52-minute film was made by a Moscow team of three cranes, as their colleagues called them, who flew 4,500 miles from Moscow to shoot in under extraordinarily harsh conditions. "It was a sunny day, and I was told it was the warmest of the season, minus 27C, when the race started," cameraman Slava Stepanov told me. "It continued like that for a few days. Then the temperature

fell to minus 40C. The film got frozen and I could hardly breathe or bend my fingers. A vet treated me as he would a dog — he gave me tablets, hot tea, massage."

The film's photography is remarkable. Shot partly from a military helicopter the crew rented, and partly from a specially built sledge, it shows heavily breathing competing dogs on a blue snow track, among volcanic mountains and in wild forest. Clever editing includes a sound track of an American beeping time-matching the running dogs' legs. But the film is not only about the rebirth of a breed of dog — it is also about the survival of an endangered people.

JEANNE VRONSKAYA

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## AVIGNON FESTIVAL

# Love and war in the night air

**L**e Chevalier d'Olmedo, which opened this year's Avignon Festival, is an arresting revival of *El Caballero de Olmedo* by Lope de Vega. The designer, Ezio Frigerio, plants an undulating field of sun-ripened wheat in the midst of the rigorous architecture of the Cour d'Honneur of the Palais de la République.

Doña Inés, is loved in return, but has the misfortune to be shot dead on a dark night by a rival, to whom justice is duly administered, is to recount the sum total of the plot.

Casting the Franco-American actor Jean-Marc Barr as the Chevalier does little to add ballast. Barr has the snow-white smile of a lover-boy hero, and shot to stardom in France in the film *Le Grand Bleu*, but

around a plain tale of unrequited love and jealousy, that lacks the dramatic dynamite it takes to ignite the sultry summernight air of the vast Cour d'Honneur.

To recount that the Chevalier, Don Alonso, loves the eminently suitable matched Doña Inés, is loved in return, but has the misfortune to be shot dead on a dark night by a rival, to whom justice is duly administered, is to recount the sum total of the plot.

Casting the Franco-American actor Jean-Marc Barr as the Chevalier does little to add ballast. Barr has the snow-white smile of a lover-boy hero, and shot to stardom in France in the film *Le Grand Bleu*, but

here he lacks solid theatrical presence. It is Jean-Michel Dupuis as Fello, Don Alonso's comic and lovable valet, whose energy fuels the rest of the cast.

The Columbus bi-centenary is the inspiration behind much of the festival programme. Strengthening the Spanish flavour is *Le Siège de Numance*, a new adaptation of a play by Cervantes. It unfolds the course of the Romans' 15-year siege of the people and city of Numanti. When starvation finally daunted their spirit, they chose to commit mass suicide rather than give General Scipion a triumphal return to Rome, with prisoners to flaunt.

A lighter side of the festival's cultural palette is *Zorzueta: Historia de un patio*. The

Robert Cantarella makes the acting space a shallow tray of water, crossed by a network of rafts on which pieces of decor, props and performers are regally trucked. The latter wade in and out of the wings — in this case, the stone cloisters of the Cloître des Carmes.

If the decor is Disneyland, then the Romans are decidedly Astérix. The Numantians are also a colourful cartoon, thanks to Laurence Forbin's ingenious cut-out costumes. But Cantarella effectively conveys the mounting horror of events, with scarcely a drop of blood spilt.

A lighter side of the festival's cultural palette is *Zorzueta: Historia de un patio*. The

music of this operetta is drawn from popular songs. However, this is not the tourist Spain of castanets and mantillas, but a glimpse of the real heart of Spain, that beats behind the walls of the tenement blocks, in the central patio where all life is lived, and all emotions laid bare.

The production is due to play next season at Peter Brook's Paris stage, the Bouffes du Nord. It is hard, though, to imagine a more ideal setting than it has in Avignon: the lines of windows of an old hospital, its peeling porticoes, sandy courtyard, and shady solitary tree.

DIANE HILL

## Poses of the famous

**ANNIE LEIBOVITZ.** I was warned, is the most expensive photographer in the world. Use one of her shots and you'll be lucky to have change out of £750. So are they worth it? Nearly 150 of them, chiefly in colour, are currently on show at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris, courtesy of American Express. A few have never been seen before. But most go to prove that if any image of popular US culture has been imprinted in your mind over the last 20 years, it is probably thanks to Connecticut-born Annie.

Her trick is simple. Leibovitz, with rare exceptions, only photographs the rich or famous. Naturally their portraits are in frequent demand and she cleans up by persuading her subjects into irreverent or poetic poses which evoke their public persona. Well, what else was John

Cleese doing hanging from a tree like a bat? Among the exceptions is a family holiday snap which represents Leibovitz's first attempt with a camera. But even that has a sense of theatre. Leibovitz captured three giant-size American soldiers standing protectively with the diminutive Queen of the Negrinos, a people who scavenged the garbage at the air base where the 19-year-old was summering with her father in the Philippines in 1968. Her fate was sealed soon after with the high she got from seeing her pictures on the front cover of *Rolling Stone*.

Leibovitz's major break came with her portrait of Mick Jagger dressed in unfamiliar fashion in bathrobe and cap in 1975, which she consolidated with a photograph of the stirches in his wrist two years

later after he said he had put his hand through a plateglass window thinking it was the door to a restaurant.

All that is missing from the show is a self-portrait. But she claims a camera-shyness worse than that she observes in Diane Keaton.

The most spectacular study of recent AIDS victims, graffiti artist Keith Haring, nude, in a room full of Salvation Army furniture all painted white. At Leibovitz's instigation, he decorated everything with tribal designs, including himself. He merges into the room in a picture that owes much to Miró and would undoubtedly be worth every cent.

ALISON BECKETT

● **Annie Leibovitz Photographs, 1970-1990.** Palais de Tokyo, 13, avenue du Président Wilson, 75016 Paris, until 27 July.



Actress Whoopi Goldberg, as seen by Annie Leibovitz



# News thoughts from a broad

There is the homey-girl-next-door Anne Diamond, the schoolmistress types such as Angela Rippon, sexy Selina Scott, doe-eyed Anna Ford, glamorous Julia Somerville, hard-hitting Kate Adie and *Panorama's* tough Jane Corby.

Few women make it to the top in news and current affairs, and when they do they are pigeon-holed. They are lauded for their legs and derided for their ambition, and they make headlines with the insinuation that they could never have got there on merit alone.

Now, we are told that Dianne Nelmes has been made the first female executive producer of Granada's news and current affairs flagship programme, *World in Action*. The programme is not only considered to be at the forefront of controversial investigative journalism but also has a 30-year-old reputation, illustrious past executive producers and even junior researchers — John Birt was a 23-year-old researcher.

Sitting in the publicity agent's news house in central London, wearing a rumpled yellow suit and trying to ignore a particularly humid day, *World in Action's* new executive producer looks poised rather than elegant and has a faintly apologetic air. She is hard to categorise, neither overtly formidable — she has a broad smile — nor drolly charming.

"I cannot think why they chose me, except that I got a few scoops on *World in Action* as a young researcher and I have launched a lot of programmes," she says modestly. As the executive producer of entertainment at Granada, she initiated a series of successes including *This Morning* and *You've Been Framed*. She adds: "I certainly do not think I was appointed because I was a woman."

Ms Nelmes is reticent when discussing the reasons behind her success. "I think I have a reputation for being extremely tough and very fair. But you would have to ask my colleagues," she says. One described her as tenacious and a perfectionist, and said she is "very kind and always listens".

Ms Nelmes will need her resilience. Current affairs programmes are having a shake-up. *This Week* is being axed, and *World in Action* has been accused of sensationalism and going down market by others in the industry. Current affairs programmes are in danger of being shifted to less enticing times to make way for quizzes and drama, which are better ammunition in the ratings wars.

Ms Nelmes's nostrils twitch at

## Alice Thomson meets Dianne Nelmes, the new executive producer of the current affairs programme *World in Action*

such observations and you begin to understand her reputation for steeliness. She says: "There is a myth surrounding *World in Action*. The papers lead you to believe we are dredging the bottom for viewers but the ratings are very healthy. Ten million watched the recent series on homelessness, 8.5 million watched last week. I do not call that disastrous."

One reason for her success may be her obsession with ratings. "If the ratings are bad I feel I have failed. It is like owning a shop where nobody buys the goods," she says.

Ms Nelmes realises *World in Action* has become more popularised with subjects such as prostitution under Nick Hayes, the previous executive producer, but is a firm advocate of expanding the issues that can be tackled. "He has improved the ratings by 45 per cent," she says.

That has to be good, but it does not mean I shall have Jeremy Beadle presenting it or introduce bingo cards. At the mention of changing the slot, Ms Nelmes glares. "It will be tragic if *World in Action* moves to a late-night slot. Viewers need a healthy mixture. *World in Action* has earned its place."

It will be interesting to see whether a current affairs programme produced by a woman will be different. She says: "I would hate to say I am going to do women's programmes but, knowing my own inclinations and instincts, I suspect the range will be broader. There will not be knitting needles and fashion but there will be a place for more health pieces or a domestic violence story as well as foreign politics and big investigations."

She laughs at the suggestion that *World in Action* has any political stance, saying it fights on the side of right. She will not retract the statement even if it makes her sound moralising. "You have to make decisions," she says. "Look at the Birmingham Six. Granada could not have spent all that money fighting what in the early days was

a deeply unpopular cause if they had not decided they were innocent." Her pride in *World in Action's* role in helping to put pressure on the government to release the Birmingham Six is obvious. Her husband, Ian McBride, was the producer-director on *World in Action* who helped to force the issue.

He conveniently became the editor of drama documentaries at Granada six months before his wife was made the executive producer. "When I married seven years ago my family joked that I should have

said, 'I take thee and the Birmingham Six'," she says. She has wanted to be an investigative journalist since she set up a newspaper on her housing estate in Berkshire when she was ten. She became a controversial editor of her school newspaper, haranguing teachers and using such phrases as: "Should we be forced through the sausage machine of exams?" at The Holt Girls' Grammar School in Woking.

harm, before editing the student newspaper *Courier* at Newcastle University. "I was single-minded. My best subject was history but I read economics so that I would stand out in a news room," she says. She took a year out to become the president of the union, then went to Thomson Newspapers on the company's training scheme as a "graduate grub". There her work on local government corruption in Newcastle won her an award.

"I wanted to be a serious investigative journalist but when I went down for an interview at the *Daily Mail* I was terrified," she says. The BBC seemed far nicer and she settled at *Look North* in 1978, where she managed to uncover a story about the head of the Northumbrian drugs squad who was trafficking confiscated drugs. It took 18 months to get the story. The man was given a seven-year jail sentence.

When Ray Fitzwalter, then the

executive producer of *World in Action* asked Ms Nelmes to become a researcher it was the best day of her life. Even better than becoming the executive producer? "Even better," she smiles.

Having made her reputation as one of the few serious female investigative journalists, Ms Nelmes dropped it all to launch *This Morning*, an aspirational family magazine programme. "I knew nothing about chatty family entertainment but instinctively I wanted to do it," she says. "There was nothing in the morning for people like my mother, sister-in-law and girlfriends." With husband and wife presenters Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley, *This Morning* was a triumph. The programme had 3.5 million viewers and the presenters have gone on to do *The Richard and Judy Show*.

Granada promoted Ms Nelmes to executive producer of entertainment, where, although not a natural quiz lover, she inherited such shows as *The Krypton Factor* and *Busman's Holiday* and created *Cleudo*, *Stars in Their Eyes* and *You've Been Framed*. "I do not think of myself as a populist but I do have a feel for the viewers and I am a terrible achiever. I have to get everything right," she says.

Her solution to stress is to be methodical: "I am a real home-maker. My husband likes cooking and I like cleaning and we spend a lot of time on our barge making lists of what to do."

Ms Nelmes is optimistic about the future for women in television. "I do not believe that there are men at every corner stopping women from getting anywhere," she says, but she does feel she has been lucky. "It is difficult for women at lower levels — PAs and secretaries. There are many extremely bright women who should be working in production but cannot get anybody to take them seriously."

Like Anna Home, Janet Street-Porter and Jane Drabble, in fact most of the women in television's top managerial positions, Ms Nelmes does not have children. "I cannot have children but I do not think I would have got this far if I had," she says.

Not being able to have a family was a blow. "At first I preferred not to tell anybody and people thought I was a pushy, ambitious woman," she says, "but as soon as I did their opinions miraculously changed and they became very sympathetic. Nobody minds now if I am absorbed in my work."



An early starter: Dianne Nelmes wanted to be an investigative journalist from the age of ten

Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, on health, wealth and wisdom

## Why does nanny get their goat?

The *Health of the Nation*, it has to be said, has done little to improve the humour, let alone health, of a few press commentators. The *Sunday Telegraph* got so wound up by the White Paper published two weeks ago that by the time it had progressed through denouncing it as "irrelevant", "socialist" and finally, in all seriousness, "communist", I could imagine the sounds of exploding collar buttons and see reddening faces framed by smoke coming out of ears.

Does it matter if *The Health of the Nation* threatens the good health and equanimity of a small, but noisy, group of journalists? I think it does, because they have missed an important point.

Libertarian arguments advanced against the White Paper are misdirected. It is a mistake to see those who "face up to" the so-called health fascists — who would meddle in their lives and regulate their calorie intake — as defenders of liberty. Like any Conservative, I believe in freedom. But freedom is restricted on a drip-feed attached to a life-support system. It is wrong to let a personal claim to the right to be free embrace ill-health, incapacity, disease and death, to become a dictatorial assertion that others should suffer as badly through apathy or ignorance. That argument owes more to personal prejudice than it does to philosophy.

There is no disagreement, for example, over defence. We all agree that the government has a duty to protect the country from the possibility of foreign attack. Yet when the attack is from ill-health and the threat well researched and well understood, the logic of this argument appears, to some, to be irrelevant.

By common consent one of the government's greatest achievements is the reform of the trade unions. Strikes cost us 29 million lost days in 1979. No competitive economy could afford such a loss. Yet, this figure is half the number currently surrendered through smoking and alcohol-related diseases.

On average, on any one day



Aiming to build a healthier Britain: Virginia Bottomley

last year, nearly 160,000 people were off work because of illness related to smoking or excessive alcohol consumption. Other avoidable diseases cost many more.

Coronary heart disease kills 140,000 people every year. It is Britain's biggest killer. A madman dispatching one 1,000th of that number would be hunted down relentlessly.

Yet some people argue that it is somehow less appropriate to pursue with equal zeal the biggest mass killer of our times. Every day nearly 16,000 NHS beds are occupied by the victims of stroke. Mental illness counts for 14 per cent of certified sick absence, as well as 14 per cent of NHS in-patient costs and nearly a quarter of the drug budget. Personal injuries from

road accidents had an economic cost of £4.5 billion in 1990. Accidental injuries took up 7 per cent of the NHS budget.

These figures, each one selected from a key area in *The Health of the Nation*, build up a picture of the crushing cost to our economy of ill-health. The NHS will continue to offer the best care to those who need it. But a key aim of the White Paper, and the targets it contains, is to secure the best use of resources by preventing and reducing ill-health wherever we can.

The idea that the government should continue to tolerate such waste and that taxpayers should be expected to foot the bill when it can be avoided is ludicrous. If industrial unrest were still inflicting

these wounds on our economy there would be outrage.

The government has a duty to secure the most effective use of taxpayers' resources. Pressure on the health service budget demands vigilance if we are both to protect the taxpayer and to preserve the qualities of the NHS. It is essential to recognise and pursue the option of prevention rather than rely solely on increasingly expensive cures.

*The Health of the Nation* is not a set of orders. Ministers, like the writers of editorials, recognise that no government has the power to run individuals' lives, nor should it seek such powers.

It is wholly consistent with this government's philosophy of personal responsibility to explore in public the ways by which everybody can join in the quest for a healthier nation. And individuals too should avoid ill-health where they can. It is the responsibility which comes with the right to free access to hospital and general practitioner care.

Targets help. They give us something tangible at which to aim. They focus hearts and minds. They build up a strategy which, far from being "socialist", is vital to the efficient functioning of a free society and the free enterprise economy.

There have been substantial advances in public health this century. Fewer children die at birth or in infancy than ever before. We have longer and healthier lives. Once fatal infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis, are all but vanquished.

The point of *The Health of the Nation* is to secure continued all-round efforts to beat off today's public health threats and achieve a healthier nation yet. It is a job for us all, not just physicians, but columnists, politicians and the man in the street. We have to trust the people to make informed choices.

On the basis of rigorous evaluation of the evidence, detailed knowledge and analysis of the statistics, it may be that nanny isn't always wrong.

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## Come off it — working mothers want to work

Julie Welch says if mothers give up work it is because the jobs are lousy, not because they want to stay at home

Of course, I won't be coming back after the baby is born



Six years ago when I was a high-powered career woman (well, sort of), I had a bouncing baby boy and was instantly, irrevocably, besotted. It was my first real exposure to the career/motherhood conflict and I had everything jumbo-sized: guilt, exhaustion, childcare problems, unsympathetic boss.

What did I do about it? Nothing. I couldn't. We needed the money so on I ploughed through those early, ratty, bleary-eyed years with scrambled eggs for brains. And thank the Lord I did. Motherhood is for life, but a job lets you out on parole.

No one ever said that combining paid work and children was going to be easy. A Gallup survey of mothers' attitudes and experiences, commissioned by Farley's, the babyfood manufacturer, produced the startling discovery last week that two-thirds of the 401 women interviewed would choose to stay at home with their children if they could afford to.

Leaving aside the questionable candour of people taking part in opinion polls (remember all those who were going to vote Labour? This is still a big cache of women who seem to be saying, "Sorry, we made a mistake. We don't want equal rights. We want to shuffle around Mothercare in purple leisure suits and bang on about the price of pushchairs."

Why is it that mothers who work outside the home seem so discontented bunch? Is it really true that we are victims of the Zeitgeist, dragging ourselves tearfully away from

hearth and home in order to keep our children fed and shod? Oh, come off it. Women aren't stupid. If we honestly and truly didn't want to work, we'd make a song and dance about it that could be heard from a passing jet.

If this survey says anything, it is about how discouraging everything is for the working mother. For a start, there is the challenge of finding decent childcare. Childminders? Good ones are harder to track down than tickets for *The Phantom of the Opera*, and even when you find them they have endless waiting lists. As for granny, forget it. She did her bit raising you. Now she has a life of her own: cruising round the world, becoming a Samaritan, taking a degree in psychology.

Sometimes the best course seems to be to hire a nanny. Some mothers are either very good judges of character or just plain lucky — they find a gem for £90 a week. Others have at least one horror story to tell — nannies who get drunk, nannies who get pregnant.

Furthermore, the girl, however nice and capable, is ubiquitous — on the sofa, on the phone (to Australia), sometimes even in the double bed (that'll teach mothers to come home early). It is no picnic trying to do a job well while wondering what is going on at home in one's absence. Of course, if a mother is earning enough to fund a £300-a-week Norlander and stick her in a self-contained flat, things

would probably go swimmingly. But there must be many mothers who eventually decide that, as they are paid so little, it is simpler to stay at home.

There lies the real problem — women's jobs. For every hospital consultant or barrister, there are hundreds more women doing boring things in uncongenial surroundings, for implacable employers, on a salary for which no man would work. This is not to say

Motherhood is for life, but a job lets you out on parole

that some men don't slog away at soul-destroying, poorly paid tasks (now, there's a thought — why is it no one has considered a survey of fathers, asking them if they might consider not going back?).

Nevertheless, all the things one hopes for in a job — interest, decent salary, power — are far more readily available to men. It isn't that surprising that many women fantasise about the autonomy of home life, and the self-esteem that comes from being special and appreciated by someone.

As one of my stay-at-home

friends remarked, "Whatever the circumstances in which you live and however well off or not you are, as a woman and mother you are queen in your own home and reign supreme in your family."

Myself, I think that being HRH indoors is on a par with being one of those members of remainered royalty, dispersed round western Europe after the second world war. I suppose, for those who enjoy being Official Keeper of the Loo Roll Supply and think that stuffing cherry tomatoes is time well spent, this could be an option.

But the world is a big, mad, fascinating place and other women long to get out there and conquer it. They crave adult conversation, the respect of their peers, and just a bit of space for themselves which isn't tied to filling the fridge. They would love to go back to work — if only they had nice jobs to go to.

So what is this survey really saying? That 66.6 per cent of this country's working mothers want to go home? No, it says that too many women have to do awful jobs.

I'd certainly be interested to know what sort of work the others are doing — the one-third of those surveyed who don't want to give up. They might not all have company BMWs and a seat on the board, but I bet they are adequately paid, promoted to the right level for their competence, and just plain appreciated and encouraged.



## Guerrilla Girls go ape

Some American feminists are RAW  
(Really Angry Women) and more  
than ready for direct action

**Word power:** Anna Koren is founder of the Graphology Institute in Tel Aviv.

Another psychological factor may come into play. "It is well established that people will readily accept generalised descriptions of personality as relating to them personally."

this is not settled in my time, then I am content to leave it to a new generation to prove."

No More Nice Girls are the more mature contingent. With a core group of a dozen or so "old soldiers" of the women's movement, the group has been going since 1979 and stands up for a broad definition of sexual freedom. At a march in Washington, DC, against restricting abortion, members wore large pink foam-rubber lips on their heads, with the message: Read Our Lips. Vote for Choice.

...to include women  
and professions.  
has been criticised for  
mostly white and  
class. "We have got  
contingent of people  
to other," replies Ellen  
er, a 32-year-old ar  
ter. "We have got  
who are on welfare  
disfranchised, who  
pay their rent, who are  
erosexual." "We  
fore Nice Girls are the  
naughty contingent. With  
group of a dozen or so  
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RENE  
RILEY-ADAMS

**FAX** : 071-481 9313  
071-782 7828

**LONDON PROPERTY**[illegible]























## BBC1

- 6.00 Ceefax (92716) 6.30 BBC Breakfast News (50312990)  
9.05 Defenders of the Earth (9) (7399193) 9.25 Why Don't You...?  
Entertaining ideas for youngsters at a loose end (9) (8928700)  
10.00 News, regional news and weather (1010251) 10.05 Playdays (9)  
(8642342) 10.25 Double Dare. Young people's game show  
presented by Peter Simon (9) (6756498) 10.45 The Q-Zone (9)  
(7828377)  
11.00 News, regional news and weather (8794193) 11.05 The Flying  
Doctors (9) (Ceefax) (9) (7478353) 11.10 The Travel Show  
Traveller. John Thirlwell's guide to northern Mallorca (9) (9513939)  
12.00 News, regional news and weather (5021990) 12.05 Summer  
Scene. The guests include Alan Whicker, weatherman Michael Fish  
and the Zimbabwe choir Sunda (8883006) 12.55 Regional  
News and weather (70883919)  
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) Weather (40280)  
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (9) (1998282) 1.50 Eldorado (9). (Ceefax)  
(9) (9952920)  
2.20 Over My Dead Body. Private detective drama series starring  
Edward Woodward (9) (7478353) 3.10 Antiques Roadshow.  
Hugh Scully and the team visit Stratford-upon-Avon (9) (8026667)  
3.50 Cartoon (8282551) 4.10 Attack of the Killer Tomatoes (9) (9)  
(5207209) 4.35 Tricky Business (9) (5650193)  
5.00 Newsround (2458377) 5.05 Five Children and It. Episode one of  
a six-part adaptation of E. Nesbit's story (9). (Ceefax) (9) (7368777)  
5.35 Neighbours (9). (Ceefax) (9) (782116)  
6.00 Six O'Clock News. (Ceefax) Weather (667)  
6.30 Regional News Magazines (919) Northern Ireland: Neighbours  
7.00 Eldorado. (Ceefax) (9) (9321)



Spectator heart by-pass patient Desmond Wilcox (7.30pm)

- 7.30 Fighting Back.  
CHOICE: As an audience-puller, getting an actress (Lynn  
Redgrave) to question well-known people tonight, it is television  
documentary producer Desmond Wilcox about their illnesses, is a  
form of double insurance — or treble insurance if there was a close  
encounter with the grim reaper, it was very close indeed in Wilcox's  
case. An "executive check-up" revealed that he was on the verge  
of a heart attack, and that if he wasn't operated on immediately,  
his wife Esther Rantzen would in all probability soon be his  
widow. Having undergone a by-pass operation, you would have  
thought wild horses wouldn't drag him back to the operating  
theatre where it all happened. But the film-maker in him won out  
and we see him tonight as a spectator at someone else's by-pass.  
(Ceefax) (9) (803)  
8.00 Lawley. Ian McShane stars as the dodgy antique dealer (9).  
(Ceefax) (661795)  
8.50 Points of View presented by Anne Robinson (9) (944087)  
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martin Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news  
and weather (2700)  
9.30 CIA: Executive Action.  
CHOICE: Immobilisation was the euphemism America's Central  
Intelligence Agency employed for getting rid of political  
undesirables like Castro, Allende and Guevara. The latter two were  
permanently immobilised. Castro lives on, although his former  
grit-friend who the CIA enlisted to eliminate him explains tonight  
that the woman he definitely had poisoned him if she had not  
undergone a dramatic change of heart at the very last moment,  
telling herself (and us) "I am a lover, not a killer". The abortive Bay  
of Pigs invasion was probably the most spectacular of the failed  
anti-Castro plots. More gentlemanly was the case of the British  
commodities broker who was asked by the CIA to help break the  
London sugar market so as to run Cuba's economy. It is a startling  
figure, but probably accurate, that there were 26 CIA-backed  
assassination plots. (Ceefax) (400087)  
10.15 Film: Gung Ho (1986) starring Michael (Battman) Keaton.  
Entertaining comedy about a car factory operative who convinces  
the Japanese to re-open his closed home town plant but doesn't  
fence the culture dash that follows. Directed by Ron Howard  
(215464). Wales: A Day at the Show 10.55-12.40am Film: Gung  
Ho 12.10am Weather (9747052)

## BBC2

- 7.10 Open University: Just an Illness (8265377)  
8.00 Breakfast News (9027358)  
8.15 The History Man. Bryan MacNery remembers the first fighter  
pilot to be downed in the second world war (9) (3276803)  
8.20 Talking Proper. A documentary on how we speak (9) (5394990)  
9.00 Favourite Things. John Mortimer tells us why he loves the things  
that give him the most pleasure (9) (56230)  
9.30 Film: Fraternity Years (1934, b/w). Comedy starring Laurel and  
Hardy. Directed by William A. Seiter (30483)  
10.30 Film: A Bill of Divorcement (1932, b/w).  
CHOICE: For two reasons, George Cukor's film version of the  
Clemence Dane stage play is a collector's item. It bears probably the  
most off-putting title in movie history. More important, it was  
Katharine Hepburn's screen debut, and, as you will see this  
morning, all the physical, vocal and interpretational components  
that have made her unique as a film performer were in good  
working order right from the word go (2690022)  
11.35 Film: Pan-Americana (1935, b/w) starring Philip Terry and Audrey  
Long. Musical tale of a jazz band, a love affair and a search  
for a story and romance. Directed by John H. Auer (2322700)  
1.00 After Hours. Entertainment magazine (9) (7279464) 1.20 Henry's  
Cat (9) (5454862) 1.25 Fireman Sam (9) (5524053) 1.35  
Discovering Portuguese (9) (99500174)  
2.00 News and weather (6507784) followed by A World Within  
Itself. A year in the life of an English oak wood (9) (2848483) 2.35  
Country File. How a 17th-century Worcestershire farmhouse was  
removed to the Blue Ridge Mountains (9) (4664716)  
3.00 News and weather (4894261) followed by Cape to Cairo by train  
(9) (7200071) 3.50 News, regional news and weather (1945990)  
4.00 Rita Hayworth: A look at the life of the 1940s "love goddess"  
(4258)  
5.00 Film: The Black Knight (1953) starring Alan Ladd and Patricia  
Medina. Unintentionally funny historical drama directed by Tay  
Garrett (2199349)  
6.25 Rough Guide to Careers. Working with wheels (9) (136822)  
7.05 Birthrights. A group of South-based British artists tell what it  
is like to grow up in a white society. (Ceefax) (9) (921933)  
7.35 From the Edge. The first in a series on the arts, politics and news  
from disabled reporters. European union, Expo 92 racing politics  
and the telephone are among this week's topics. (Ceefax) (581087)  
8.05 Feelings: The Sun King. Mental health survivor, Debbie Nicholson  
looks back to the time she met her father after. (Ceefax) (244984)  
8.10 States of the Mind. Comedy and Channel 4. The series  
different facets of American family life continues with a look at  
the controversy between the Denver Cartmen's Association who  
want to expand their rodeo and the residents of a run-down  
Mexican community that stands in its way. (Ceefax) (980071)



Sugary romance: Josette Simon and Yul Vazquez (9.00pm)

- 9.00 ScreenPlay: Bitter Harvest.  
CHOICE: It is a safe bet that the Dominican Republic's  
celebrations marking the 500th anniversary of its "discovery" by  
Columbus will not include public screenings of this film, shot in the  
republic, scripted by Winsome Pinnock, and Charles Pattinson, and  
vividly directed by Simon Cellan Jones. It indicates the sugar-labour  
exploitation of Haitians working in the republic's sugar-cane fields,  
supervised by armed thugs who shoot first and ask questions  
afterwards; and it depicts the slums that make a nonsense of the  
republic's professed concern for the environment. This contempt is  
expressed in terms of a thriller in which a West Indian father and his  
white wife (Rudolph Walker, Sue Johnston) go to the republic to  
find their kidnapped daughter (Josette Simon, an ad worker whose  
idealism is ignited by a local lay preacher (Yul Vazquez). (Ceefax) (9)  
(9071938)  
10.15 ScreenPlay: Siberian Summer. A Hungarian woman's  
dreams of fairy-tale happiness contrasts vividly with the realities of  
her life (738174) 10.30 Newsnight with Sue Cameron (515377)  
11.15 Rhythms of the World. The Texas Tornados in concert at Gruene  
Hall, Texas (9) (301322) 11.55 Weather (497938)  
12.00 Open University: Age and identity (6638255). Ends at 12.55am

## ITV

- 6.00 7:am (3463735)  
9.25 Your Number Please. Phone-in game show with cash prizes,  
hosted by Neil Buchanan (9) (1182483) 9.55 Thames News  
(6218716)  
10.00 Out of This World. Comedy series about a girl who inherits her  
alien father's supernatural powers (9) (6) (6228193) 10.25  
Weaver. Animation (3521087) 10.55 News headlines  
11.00 Ox Tales. Two more animated adventures for Olaf the Ox  
(2689261) 11.25 Just for the Record. Record-breaking action  
from around the world (9) (9808803) 11.50 Thames News  
(5323006) 11.55 Cartoon Time (7412700) 12.10 Allsorts (9)  
(3408174)  
12.30 Lunchtime News with Dermot Murnaghan and Sonia Russell.  
(Oracle) Weather (3699280) 1.05 Thames News (2397300)  
1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama series. (Oracle)  
(304193) 1.45 A Country Practice. Medical drama series set in the  
Australian outback (9) (303464)  
2.15 Graham Kerr. The cook prepares salmon hash (395445) 2.45 Take  
the High Road. Drama series set in the Highlands (4680754)  
3.10 ITN News headlines (4812667) 3.15 Thames News headlines  
(4811938) 3.20 The Young Doctors. Drama series set in a large  
Australian city hospital (729174)  
3.30 Cartoon Time (6960025) 3.55 Scooby Doo. Cartoons (6312990)  
4.15 Hulk Hogan's Rock 'n' Wrestling. Animated adventures  
(2591549) 4.40 Fun House. Slapstick game show (8631822)  
5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz game for teenagers,  
presented by Bob Holmes (6118434)  
5.40 Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather  
(349377)  
5.55 Thames Help (9) (664464)  
6.00 Home and Away (9). (Oracle) (735)  
6.30 Thames News. (Oracle) (777)  
7.00 Take Your Pick. Des O'Connor hosts the yes/no game show (9)  
(2919)  
7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle) (241)  
8.00 Hope & Rain. Comedy series starring Tom Bell as the irascible  
owner of a run-down seaside resort who works and Holly Auld as his  
independently minded god-daughter. (Oracle) (9) (1667)  
8.30 Land of Hope and Gloria. Simon Brett's comedy series about an  
American efficiency expert hired to improve the fortunes of an  
English state home. Starring Sheila Ferguson and Andrew  
Bicknell. (Oracle) (9) (4254)  
9.00 Favorite Son. Episode one of a three-part American mini-series to  
be shown on consecutive nights, starring Harry Hamlin and Linda  
Kozlowski. A vice-presidential hopeful is wounded when attending a  
press conference welcoming a Nicaraguan Contra leader who is  
assassinated. The president orders an FBI investigation and the  
world-weary agent Nick Mancuso is assigned to the case (continues  
after the news). (Oracle) (9919)  
10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald and Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle)  
Weather (68071) 10.30 Thames News (285735)  
10.40 Favourite Son continued (680807)  
11.25 Hollywood Round. Tinseltown gossip (9) (546822)  
11.55 Film: Modesty Blaise (1966) starring Monica Vitti, Dirk Bogarde  
and Terence Stamp. Spool thriller based on the comic strip about a  
beautiful British secret agent. Directed by Joseph Losey (7392622)  
2.10am Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Animal Lover. A woman is used  
to expose a conman posing as a vet (9) (2457507)  
2.45 America's Top Ten (9) (1253)  
3.15 Videoflash. Extravagant designs and designers (76080746)  
3.40 Quiz Night. Inter pub and club competition (4036321)  
4.10 Grand Ole Opry. Country and western music from Nashville (9)  
(82547946)  
4.40 Fifty Years On (b/w). Vintage newsclips (32144743)  
5.00 Three's Company. American comedy series (79101)  
5.30 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman (48168). Ends at 6.00

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Channel 4 Daily (3461377)  
9.25 Little Rosie. Animation (9) (1166445)  
9.50 The Henderson Kids. Australian family drama series (9) (2356377)  
10.15 Gussie and the Advisors. Animation from Hungary (4910342)  
10.25 Film: Dancing Co-Ed (1939, b/w) starring Lana Turner. Musical  
"discovered" by a press agent. Directed by S. Sylvan Simon  
(88698551)  
12.00 Land of Hope. Episode one of a ten-part drama series following  
the fortunes of an Australian Irish family from the turn-of-the-  
century to the 1970s (9) (7163464)  
12.55 Lights Before Dawn. Animation (70876629)  
1.00 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning series (9) (76532)  
2.00 Film: Give My Regards To Broadway (1948) starring Dan Bailey  
followed by a press agent. Directed by Lloyd Bacon  
(250087)  
3.35 The Three Stooges in Busy Buddies (b/w) (6423464)  
4.00 In Search of Scotland's Larder. Derek Cooper travels to the  
Shetlands to sample fish stew and local salmon (9) (700)  
4.30 Countdown. Another round of the words and numbers game,  
presented by Richard Whitley. The guest is Sheridan Morley (394)  
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. The audience is made up of mothers  
(8812241)  
5.55 Laurel and Hardy. Cartoon (662006)

Village people: Susan Saint James and Jane Curtin (6.00pm)

- 6.00 Kate and Allie. Comedy series starring Susan Saint James and Jane  
Curtin as divorces sharing a Greenwich Village home. (Teletext)  
(377)  
6.30 Tour de France. Stage 17 — La Bourboule to Montluçon, a  
distance of 170km (629)  
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) Weather (707629)  
7.50 Party Political Comment by a Conservative party politician  
(923208)  
8.00 Brookside. Soap set in suburban Merseyside (9209)  
8.30 The World in a Garden. The first of a four-part series following  
the restoration by the National Trust of the Victorian garden at  
Biddulph Grange near Stoke-on-Trent, presented by Roy Lancaster.  
(Teletext) (8716)  
9.00 Out. Lesbian and gay magazine. Cy Gay investigates the pleasures  
and pains of being lesbian or gay, and Lewis (Teletext) (1731)  
10.00 The Golden Girls. More delicious comedy from the four Miami  
matrons (9). (Teletext) (66613)  
10.30 Absolutely. Comedy coming from Peter Baile, Moirwen Banks,  
Jack Docherty, Moray Hunter, Gordon Kennedy and John Sparkes  
(9). (Teletext) (9) (95025)  
11.05 Mejo Working. Archive footage of Little Richard (9) (640648)  
11.30 Sideshow Moments on Tour with Julian Clary. Game show (9) (9)  
(690463)  
12.00am Film: Maratons. Three animations from Czechoslovakia — The  
Shooting Gallery, Springer and the SS and Inspiration  
12.50 Film: Death in High Heels (1947, b/w) starring Don Stanard as a  
detective investigating the murder of a model in a Bond Street frock  
shop. Directed by Lionel Tomlinson (7506056)  
1.45 Film: The Late Edwina Black (1951, b/w) starring David Farrar  
and Geraldine Fitzgerald. Victorian melodrama about lovers  
suspected of murdering the man's wife. Directed by Maurice Elia  
(564168). Ends at 3.30

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## SATellite

## SKY ONE

- 6.00am The Di Rat Show (9223393) 8.00  
Mrs. Penworth (891035) 8.30 Japan Business  
Today (3049242) 11.45 International Business  
Report (4534990) 12.30pm Good  
Morning America (459388) 1.30 Good  
Morning America (46677) 2.30 Nightline  
(803718) 3.30 Our World (64551) 4.30  
Fashion TV (1984) 5.00 Live at 10 (14071)  
6.30 Newsline (62667) 8.30 Fashion TV  
(803718) 10.30 Newsline (8551) 11.30 ABC  
News (77619) 12.30pm Newsline (8153)  
1.30 ABC News (86178) 2.30 Beyond 2000  
(77299) 3.30 ABC News (72044) 4.30  
Beyond 2000 (42439) 5.30 Newsline  
(77694)  
9.00 MOVIES+  
Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites  
6.00 Showcase (3394209)  
10.00 The Gods Must Be Crazy II (1990):  
12.00 That Touch of Mink (1962). Cary  
Grant wags his dog (46238)  
2.00pm Film: The Last Days of Pompeii (1972). Alister  
MacLennan (9) (1648)  
4.00 Brenda Starr (1960). Comedy-adventure  
starring Brenda Starr (Shirley Jones) (9)  
(384234)  
8.00 Fast Forward (1991). Gifford  
Cynide. Road movie about a man who robs  
Cory and Leo Ross (53629)  
10.00 Impulse (1991). These Russell plays  
an undercover policeman (96377)  
11.30 The Gods Must Be Crazy II (1990).  
Down and out men (150261)  
1.30am Road of the Gods II (1991). Giant  
pigs invade a New Zealand village (9)  
(3571)  
3.00 Penn and Teller Get Stuffed (9).  
The comedy-magic duo are stalked by a  
killer rabbit (921616)  
4.35 Point in Black (1988). Charles Rock  
Rosenberg becomes involved with gallery  
owner Sami Vaklind (92133). Ends at 5.00

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Rosenberg becomes involved with gallery  
owner Sami Vaklind (92133). Ends at 5.00

## VARIATIONS

- 6.00am The Di Rat Show (9223393) 8.00  
Mrs. Penworth (891035) 8.30 Japan Business  
Today (3049242) 11.45 International Business  
Report (4534990) 12.30pm Good  
Morning America (459388) 1.30 Good  
Morning America (46677) 2.30 Nightline  
(803718) 3.30 Our World (64551) 4.30  
Fashion TV (1984) 5.00 Live at 10 (14071)  
6.30 Newsline (62667) 8.30 Fashion TV  
(803718) 10.30 Newsline (8551) 11.30 ABC  
News (77619) 12.30pm Newsline (8153)  
1.30 ABC News (86178) 2.30 Beyond 2000  
(77299) 3.30 ABC News (72044) 4.30  
Beyond 2000 (42439) 5.30 Newsline  
(77694)  
9.00 MOVIES+  
Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites  
6.00 Showcase (3394209)  
10.00 The Gods Must Be Crazy II (1990):  
12.00 That Touch of Mink (1962). Cary  
Grant wags his dog (46238)  
2.00pm Film: The Last Days of Pompeii (1972). Alister  
MacLennan (9) (1648)  
4.00 Brenda Starr (1960). Comedy-adventure  
starring Brenda Starr (Shirley Jones) (9)  
(384234)  
8.00 Fast Forward (1991). Gifford  
Cynide. Road movie about a man who robs  
Cory and Leo Ross (53629)  
10.00 Impulse (1991). These Russell plays  
an undercover policeman (96377)  
11.30 The Gods Must Be Crazy II (1990).  
Down and out men (150261)  
1.30am Road of the Gods II (1991). Giant  
pigs invade a New Zealand village (9)  
(3571)  
3.00 Penn and Teller Get Stuffed (9).  
The comedy-magic duo are stalked by a  
killer rabbit (921616)  
4.35 Point in Black (1988). Charles Rock  
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